

MARVEL

39

LGY#933

WELLS
ROMITA JR.
HANNA
MENYZ

GANG WAR

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



GANG WAR

TERRITORIES



PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GANG WAR

Former Mayor **Wilson Fisk** passed a law prohibiting super heroes like **Spider-Man**, and current mayor **Luke Cage** can't repeal it. The super-gangs of NYC have taken advantage and share a delicate balance of power. That balance was upset when **Tombstone** was shot at his daughter's wedding. **Hammerhead** made his move during the chaos and killed **Madame Masque**. Tombstone's daughter, the **Beetle**, rushed to take care of her comatose father and tend to his criminal territory. The groom-to-be was **Randy Robertson**, whom the violence spurred on to campaign against Fisk's law.

Hammerhead continued to play the other bosses against each other to secure his power and had Randy Robertson, son of *Daily Bugle* editor **Robbie Robertson**, shot to stop the repeal movement's momentum.

Hammerhead was then beaten to a pulp by a very alive Madame Masque. With Hammerhead out of the way, a Gang War has erupted and all of New York City is in chaos.

**ZEB
WELLS**
WRITER

**JOHN
ROMITA JR.**
PENCILER

**SCOTT
HANNA**
INKER

**MARCIO
MENYZ**
COLORIST

VC's JOE
CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

JOHN ROMITA JR.,
SCOTT HANNA
& MARCIO MENYZ
COVER ARTISTS

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LEE GARBETT & YEN NITRO;
JOEL MANDISH [MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN 2];
VITALE MANGIATORDI [DISNEY 100];
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & MARCIO MENYZ
[WRAPAROUND]

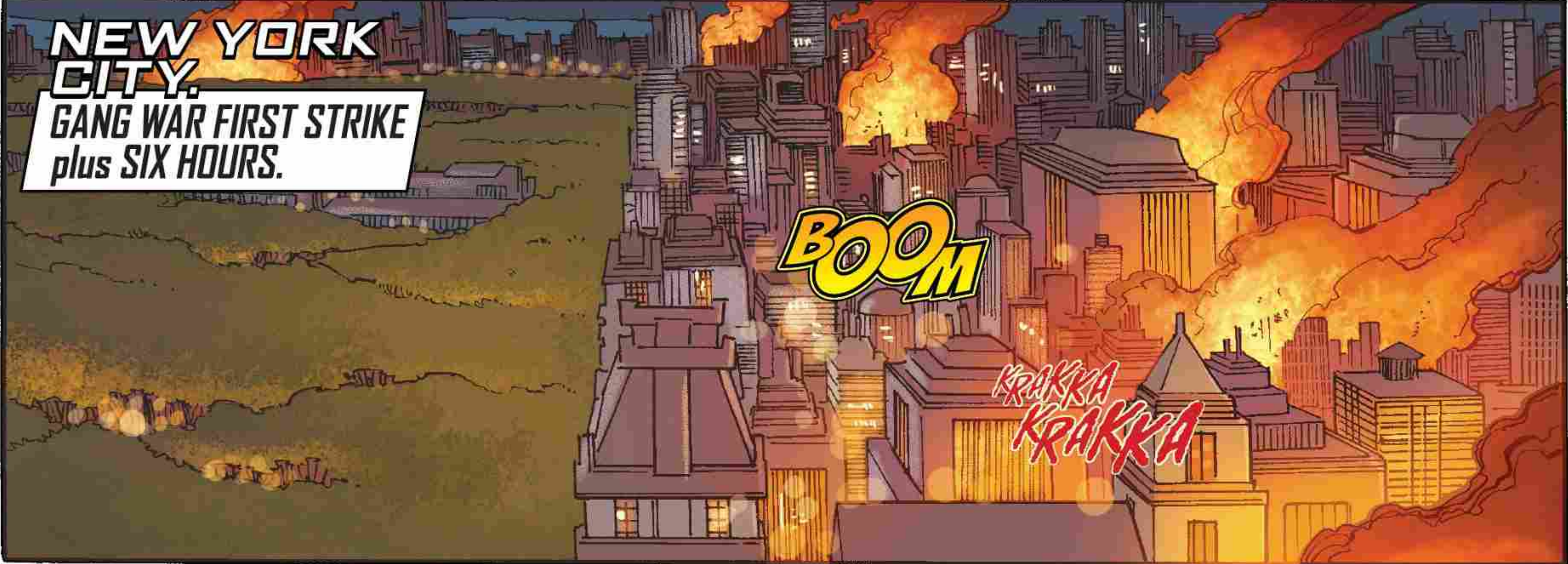
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

KAEDEN
McGAHEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

NICK
LOWE
EDITOR

C.B.
CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY
STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO



NEW YORK CITY.
GANG WAR FIRST STRIKE
plus SIX HOURS.

BOOM

**KRAKKA
KRAKKA**



STAY CLOSE, JUNE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

CENTRAL PARK! NO ONE'S FIGHTING OVER--



BOOM

--**ARGH!**

JOHN!



CAREFUL, FRIEND.



IT'S A REAL CIRCUS OUT HERE.



LUCKILY, THE RINGMASTER HAS ARRIVED.

D-DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?



THE CRIME BOSSSES OF NYC ARE...*NEGOTIATING* FOR TERRITORY. IT'S A FIRE SALE AND EVERYTHING MUST GO.

GET THESE TWO SOME WEAPONS.

W-WEAPONS?

CRIME-MASTER MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH A.I.M. TO PROTECT HIS *UPPER EAST SIDE* CONCERN. I PLAN TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS PROPERTY, REGARDLESS.

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND?

THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY. YOU SEE, THIS IS A WAR, BUT I'M CURRENTLY WITHOUT AN ARMY.



...THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.



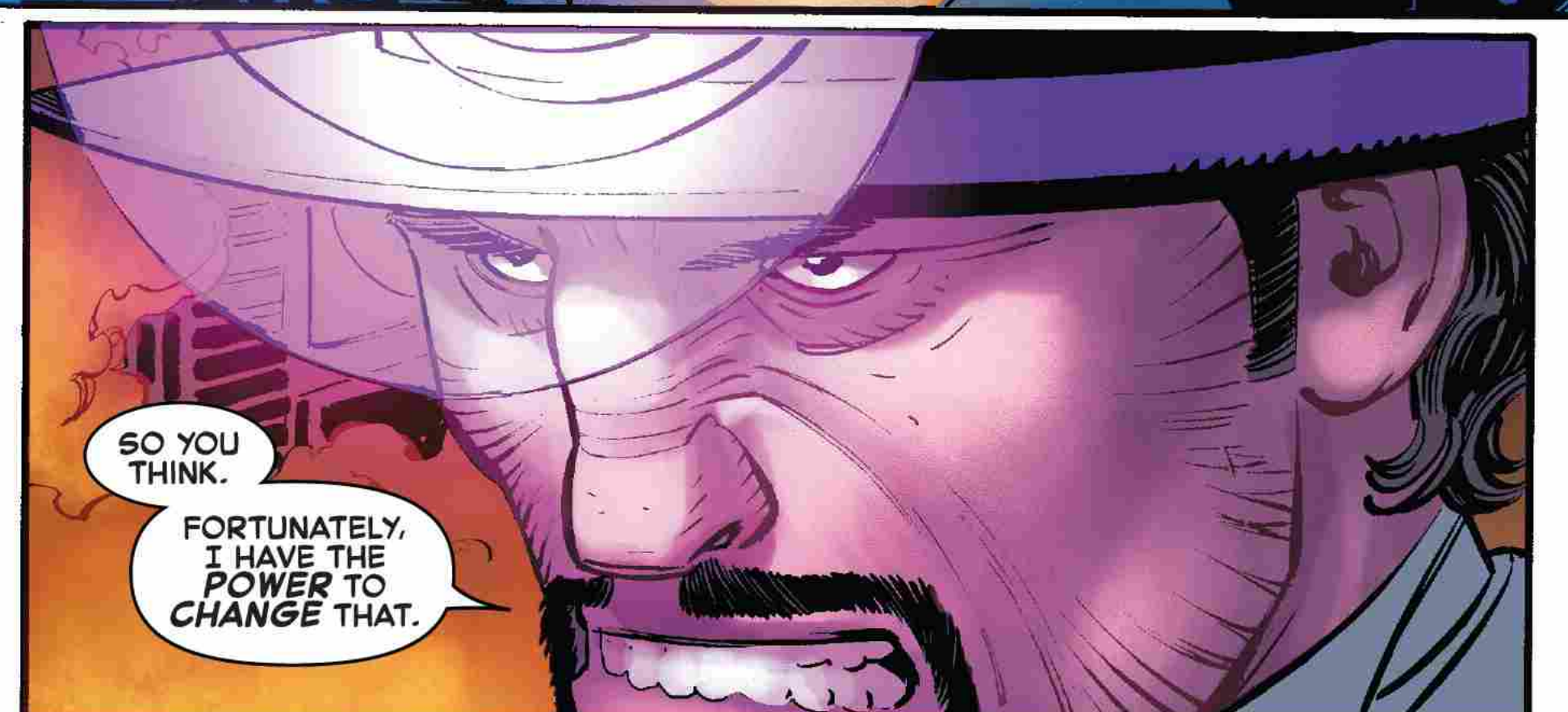
LOCK AND LOAD, RINGMASTER.

WHO DO YOU WANT US TO KILL?



YOU'LL SEE THEM. THEY STICK OUT.

SAFETIES OFF!







...THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF FIREPOWER DOWN THERE.

WE'RE NOT LOOKING TOO BAD UP HERE.

JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING.

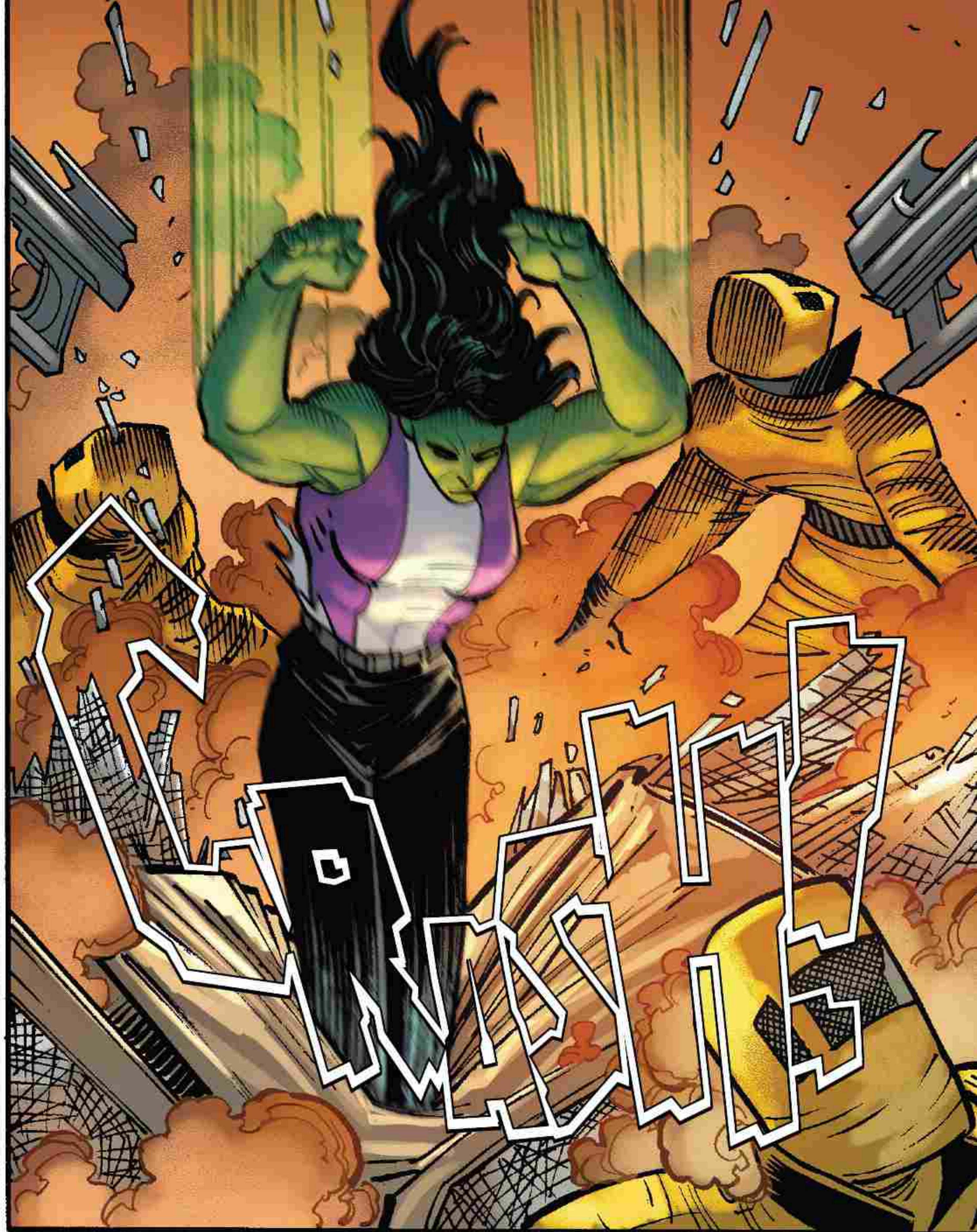
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? I'VE GOT PLACES TO BE.

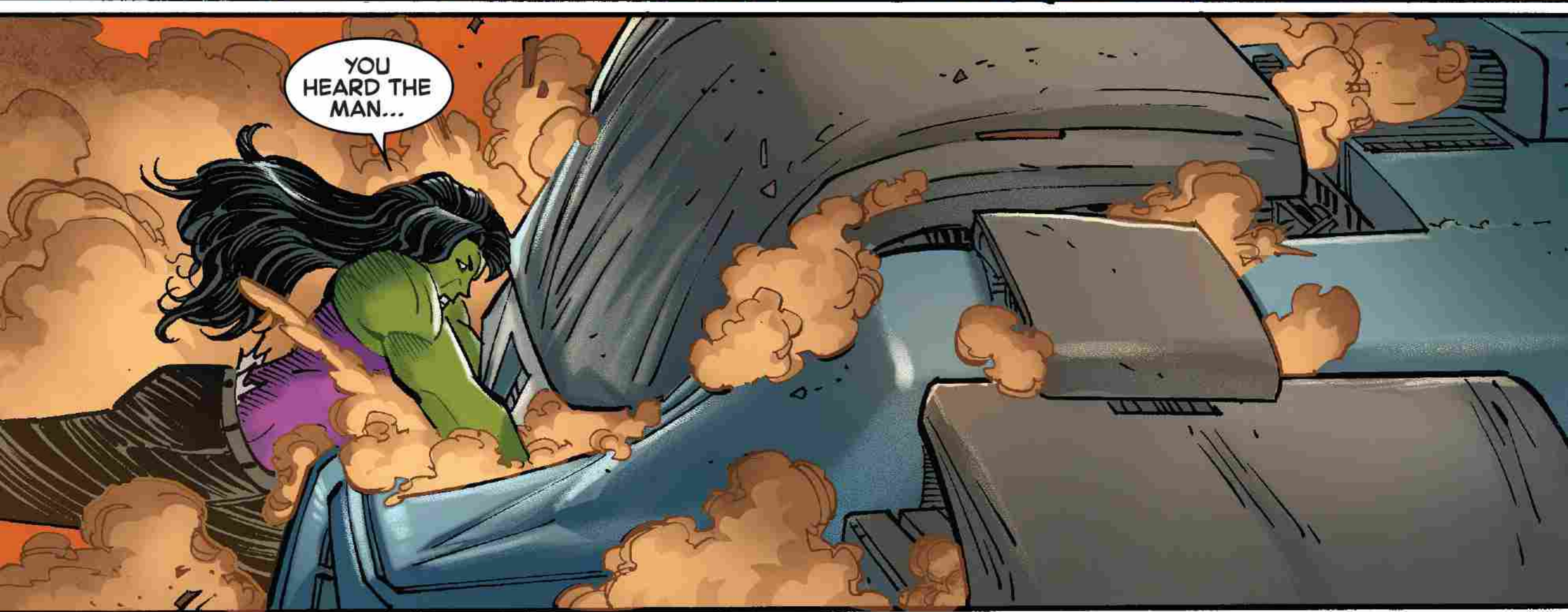
COPY THAT, JEN. COULD YOU--?

TANK?
TANK.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY TANK.

RIP







BUT FEEL
FREE TO FILL
UP ON VENOM
SABER.



YOU HAVE
FIVE SECONDS
TO STOP
THIS.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
DONE YOUR
RESEARCH,
MY DEAR...



...YOU
ARE ONLY
ADDING TO MY
RANKS.



YOU ARE
MY SOLDIER
NOW.

YOUR MIND IS
UNDISCIPLINED. A
CHILD SCREAMING
THROUGH A
MEGAPHONE.

I'VE SPENT
A LIFETIME
TRAINING
MINE.

S-STOP.
STOP!



NO.

KRAK

--Gark!



THIS WAR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

I KNOW. I'M JUST THE DISTRACTION.

WHA--?



KRAK

SORRY, WE'RE IN A HURRY.



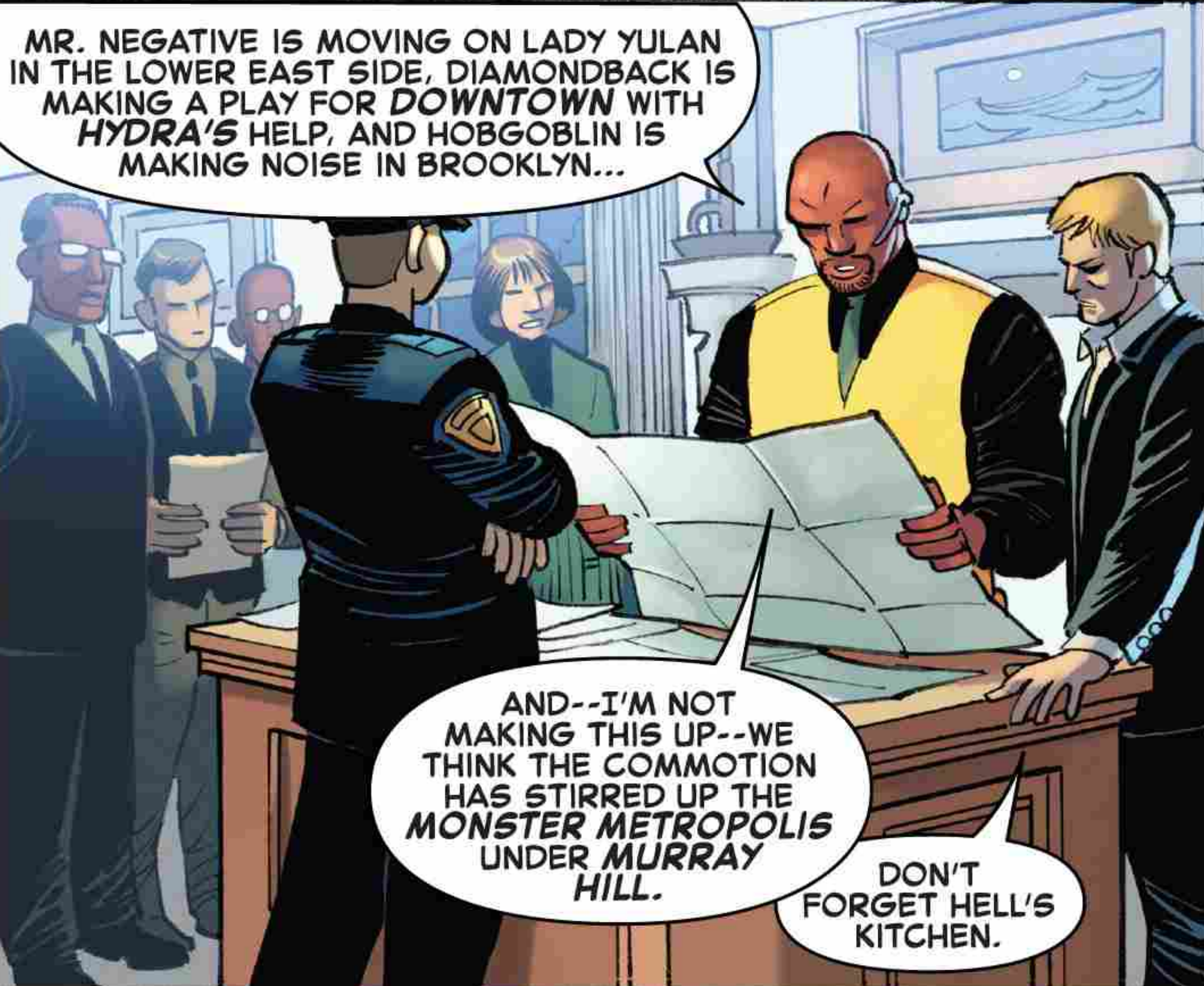
UPPER EAST SIDE HOT ZONE IS COLD, LUKE.

GOT TWO BIG FISH AND A BUNCH OF A.I.M. AGENTS WHO NEED PROCESSING.

GRACIE MANSION.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, SPIDER-MAN.

BUT WE'RE STRETCHED THIN HERE.

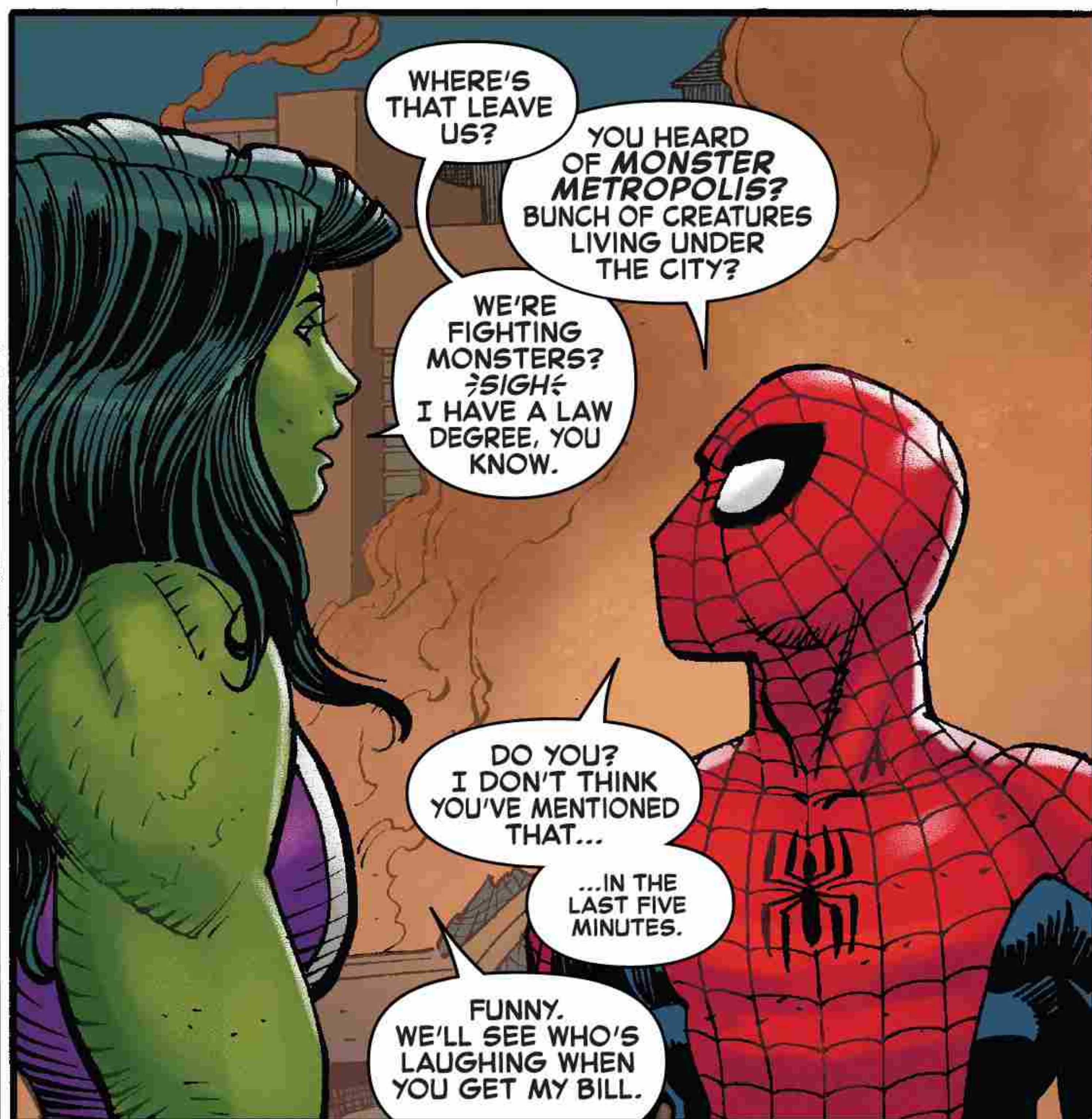


MR. NEGATIVE IS MOVING ON LADY YULAN IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE, DIAMONDBACK IS MAKING A PLAY FOR DOWNTOWN WITH HYDRA'S HELP, AND HOBGOBLIN IS MAKING NOISE IN BROOKLYN...

AND--I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP--WE THINK THE COMMOTION HAS STIRRED UP THE MONSTER METROPOLIS UNDER MURRAY HILL.

DON'T FORGET HELL'S KITCHEN.







TOMBSTONE'S
NOT HERE TO
PROTECT HIS
TERRITORY...

...OR
YOU!



SHUT THE #&%& UP! LONNIE
DOESN'T PROTECT US! WE
PROTECT--

--PROTECT
HIM--

DAMMIT,
KAREEM! MY
UMBRELLA'S
JAMMED!

I TOLD
YOU MARIAH WAS
COMING!

WHY
COULDN'T YOU
JUST BRING A
GUN?



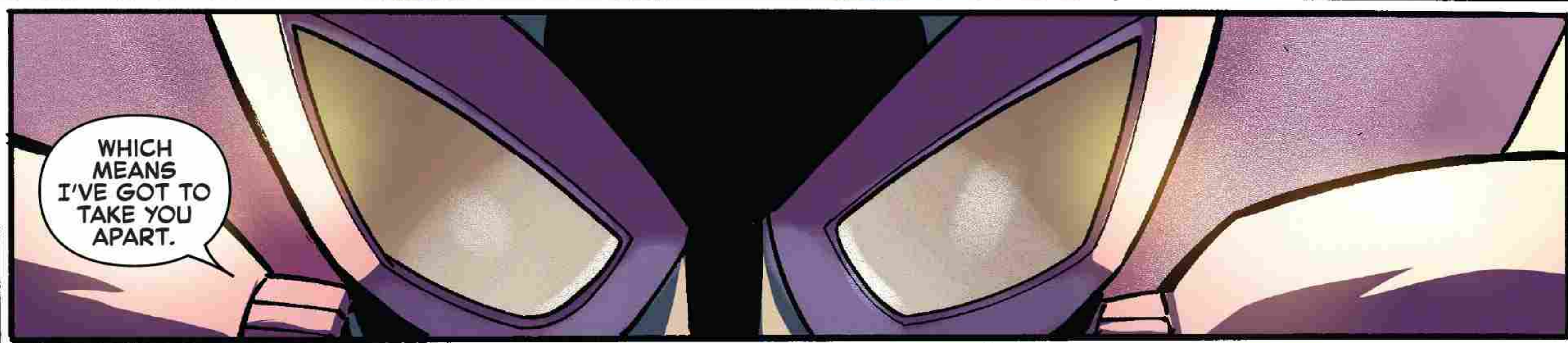
LIKE A
PEASANT?!

#&%& IT!
I'LL USE MY
HANDS.



NIGHT OF
THE LEPLUS,
MOTHER--







WHEN I'M WORKING,
I GO BY THE
BEETLE.



AND, NO,
I'M NOT MY
FATHER.



MY FATHER IS IN
THE HOSPITAL. I
DON'T KNOW WHO PUT
HIM IN THERE, BUT I
KNOW IT WAS ONE
OF YOU.

AND I WANT ALL
OF YOU TO KNOW
THERE WON'T BE
AN INCH TO
GAIN FROM HIS
INJURIES.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES.
I'LL TELL
'EM.

NO...

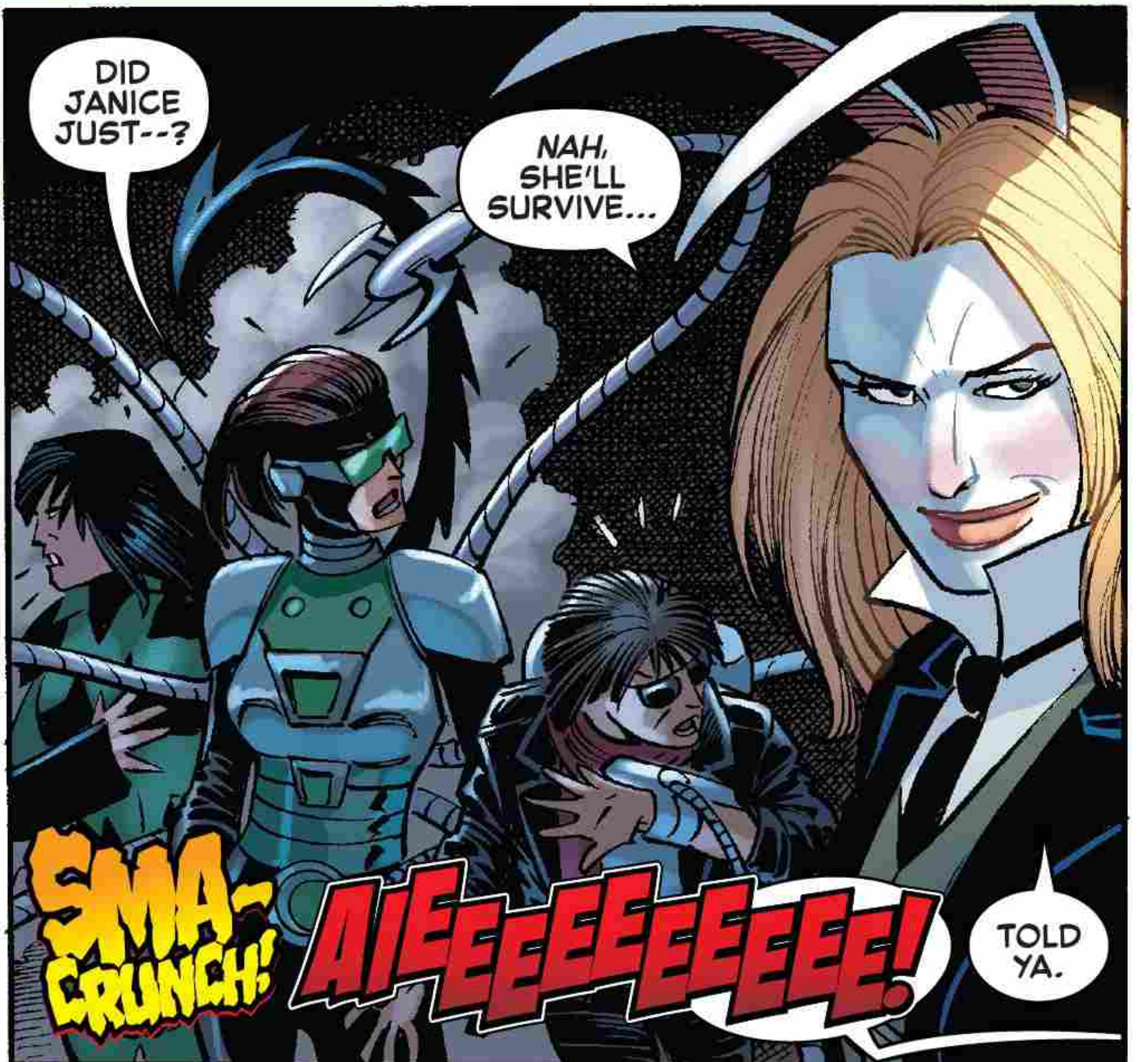


...YOU'LL
SHOW 'EM.

WAIT--!



AAAAHHH!



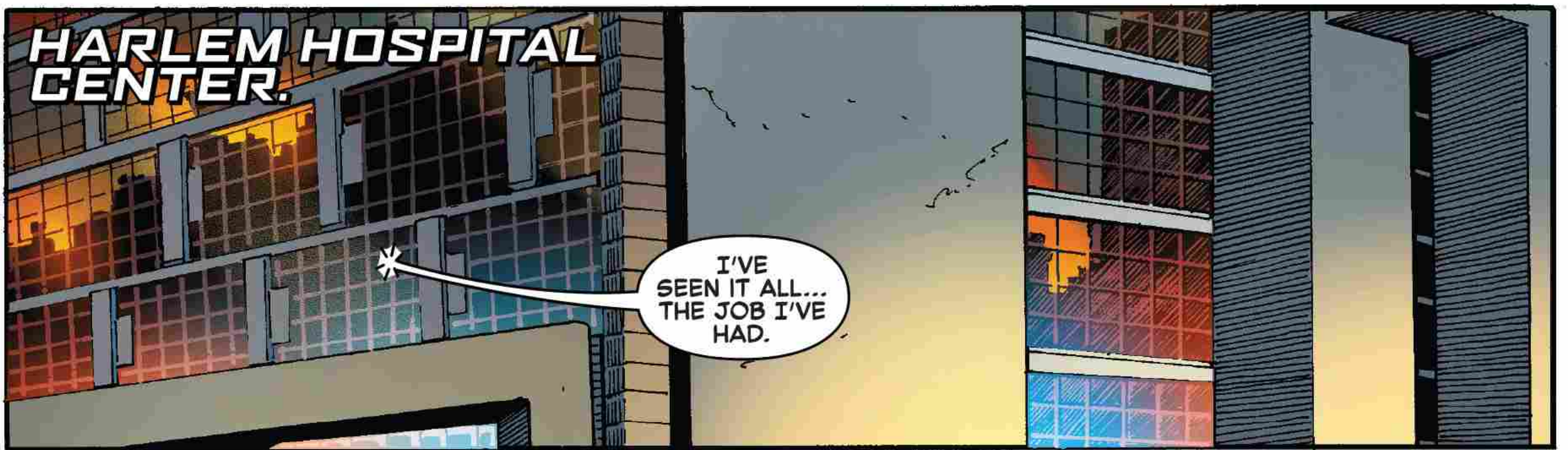
DID JANICE
JUST--?

NAH,
SHE'LL
SURVIVE...

SMA-
CRUNCH!

AAAAHHH!

TOLD
YA.



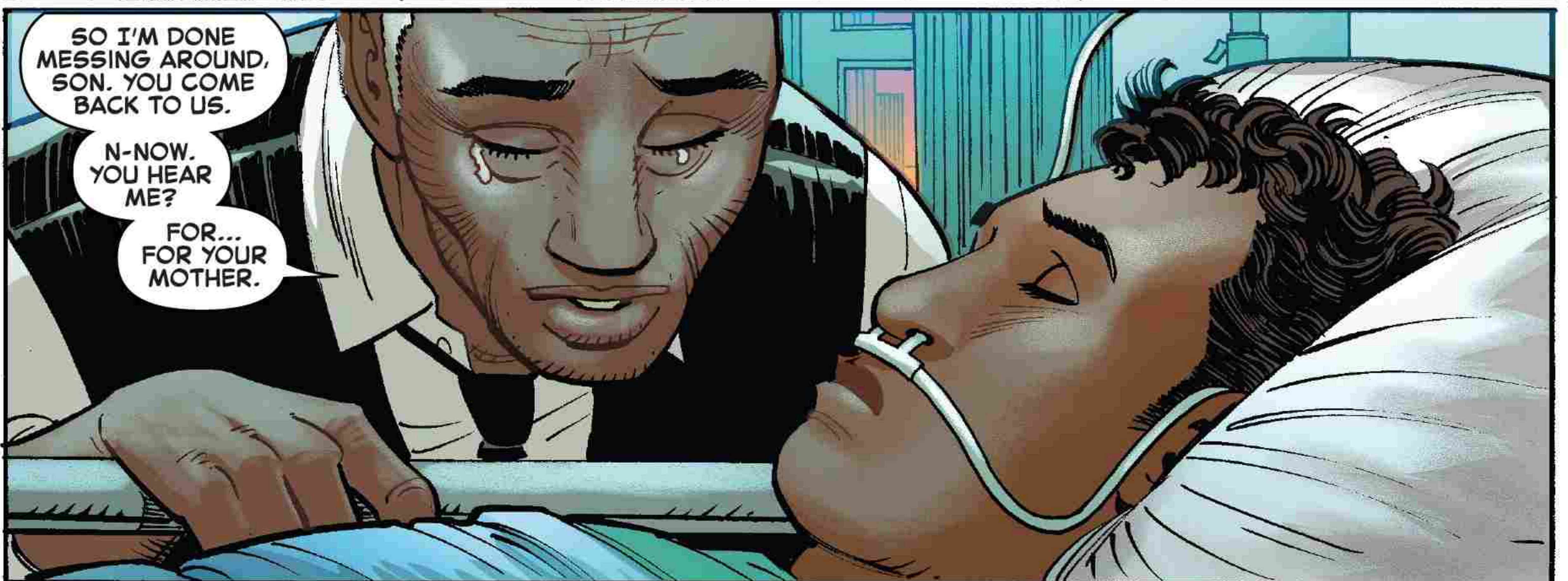
I'VE
SEEN IT ALL...
THE JOB I'VE
HAD.



ALL THIS
FIGHTING...THE
CITY WILL
SURVIVE.

BUT YOUR MOTHER,
RANDY...I DON'T
KNOW IF SHE WANTS
TO BE HERE IF
YOU...

...IF YOU
DON'T COME
BACK.



SO I'M DONE
MESSING AROUND,
SON. YOU COME
BACK TO US.

N-NOW.
YOU HEAR
ME?

FOR...
FOR YOUR
MOTHER.



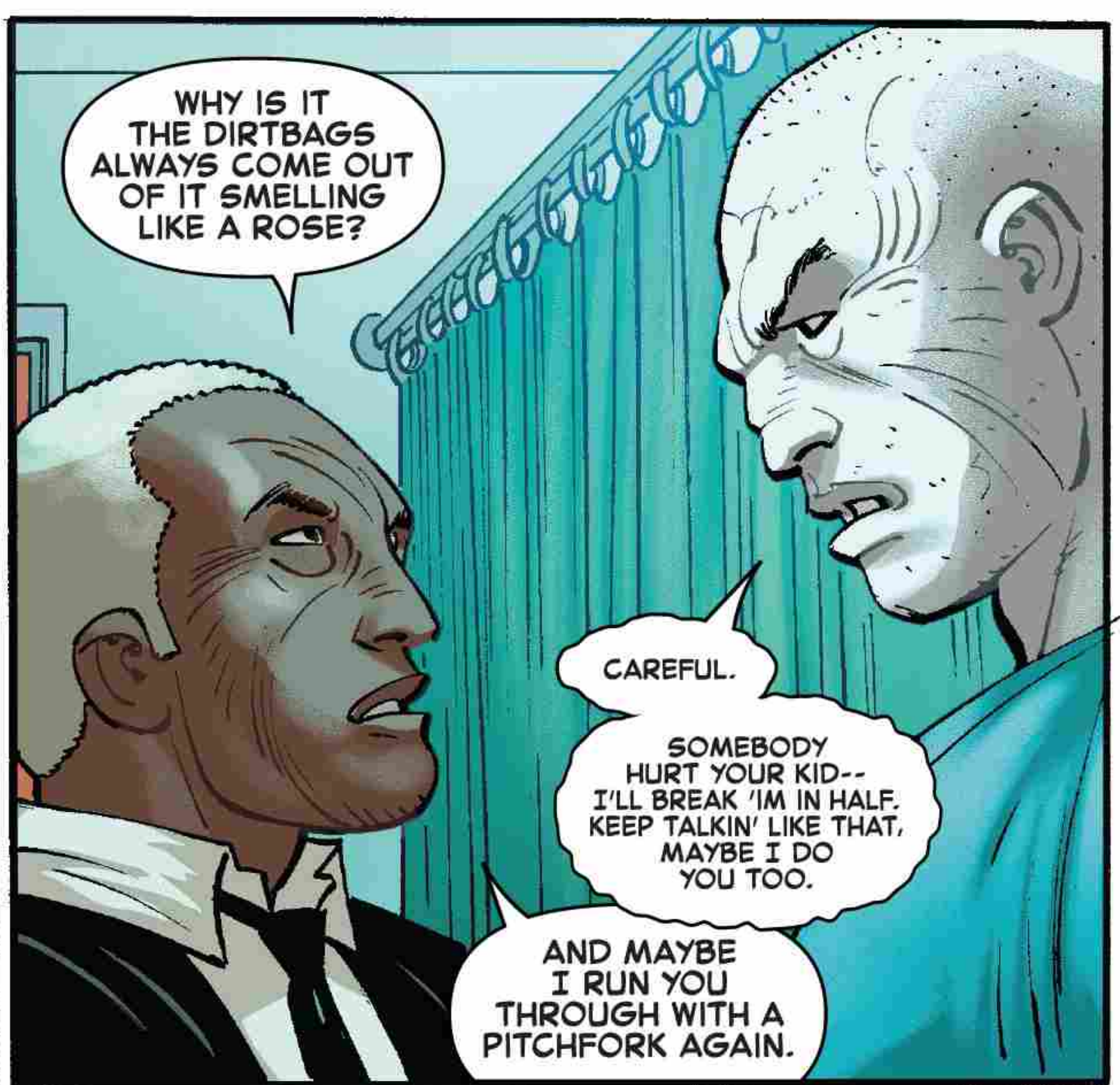
NOT THE
FACE I EXPECTED
TO SEE WHEN I
WOKE UP.



THEY GOT
YOUR BOY
TOO, HUH?

WHAT
ABOUT
JANICE?

NOT A
SCRATCH ON
HER. LOOKS LIKE
YOU MADE A FULL
RECOVERY
TOO.



WHY IS IT
THE DIRTBAGS
ALWAYS COME OUT
OF IT SMELLING
LIKE A ROSE?

CAREFUL.

SOMEBODY
HURT YOUR KID--
I'LL BREAK 'IM IN HALF.
KEEP TALKIN' LIKE THAT,
MAYBE I DO
YOU TOO.

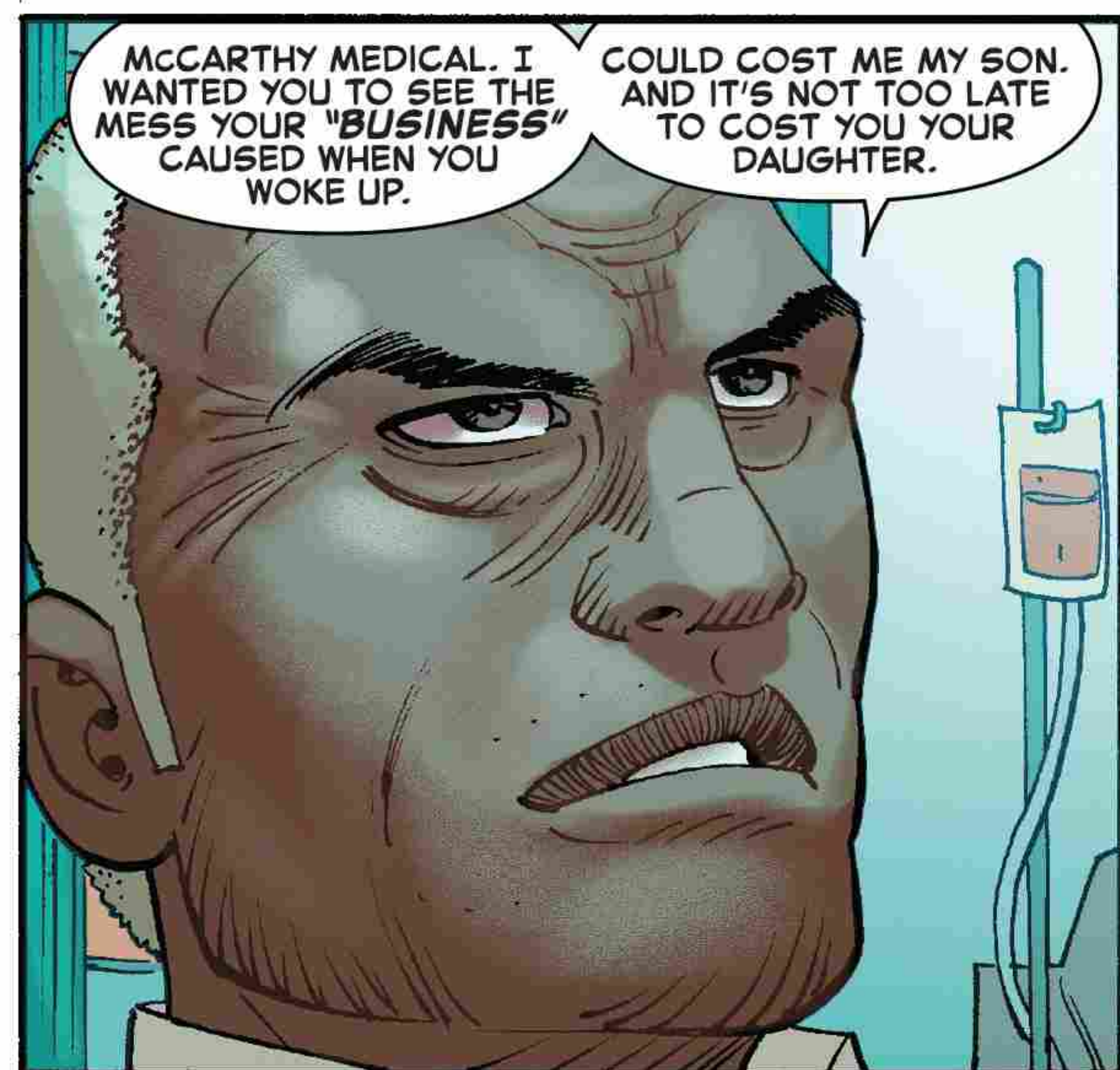
AND MAYBE
I RUN YOU
THROUGH WITH A
PITCHFORK AGAIN.



HEH.

WE HAD
SOME GOOD
TIMES, DIDN'T
WE?

WHERE
AM I?

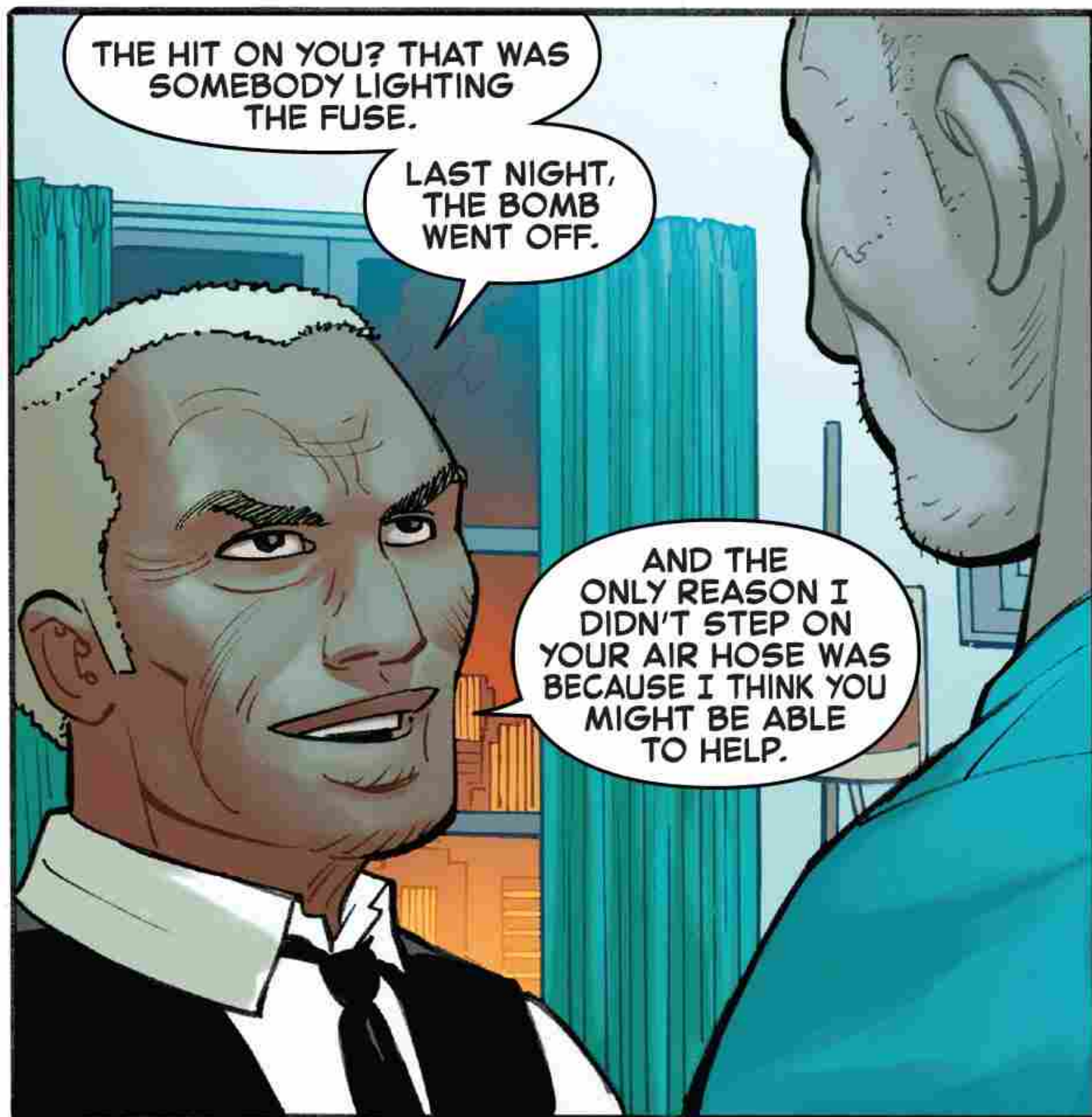


MCCARTHY MEDICAL. I
WANTED YOU TO SEE THE
MESS YOUR "BUSINESS"
CAUSED WHEN YOU
WOKE UP.

COULD COST ME MY SON.
AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE
TO COST YOU YOUR
DAUGHTER.



I'M NOT
FOLLOWING YOU,
ROBERTSON.



**MURRAY
HILL!**

BRING
US THIS
MURRAY!

SO THAT
WE MAY MURDER
HIM AND CLAIM HIS
HILL FOR...

**Monster
Metropolis!**

I'M INFORMING YOU, AS AN APPOINTED
DEPUTY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE,
THAT MURRAY HILL EXISTS UNDER
THE DOMAIN OF NEW YORK CITY,
SUBJECT TO ALL RULES AND
REGULATIONS THEREIN.

MONSTER
METROPOLIS IS
UNRECOGNIZED BY
ANY LEGAL BODY, AND
ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE
WILL BE MET WITH
FORCE.

THAT'S LAWYER TALK FOR
GET YOUR BUTTS BACK
UNDERGROUND BEFORE
THIS GETS UGLY!

ARE YOU STANDING
BEHIND ME?

NO.

YOU'RE STANDING
BEHIND ME.

I AM
NOT. I WAS
RESPECTFULLY
LETTING YOU
SPEAK!

DIEEEEE!

YOU'RE
CLEARLY
BEHIND
ME!

FINE!

**K
R
A
Z
Y**



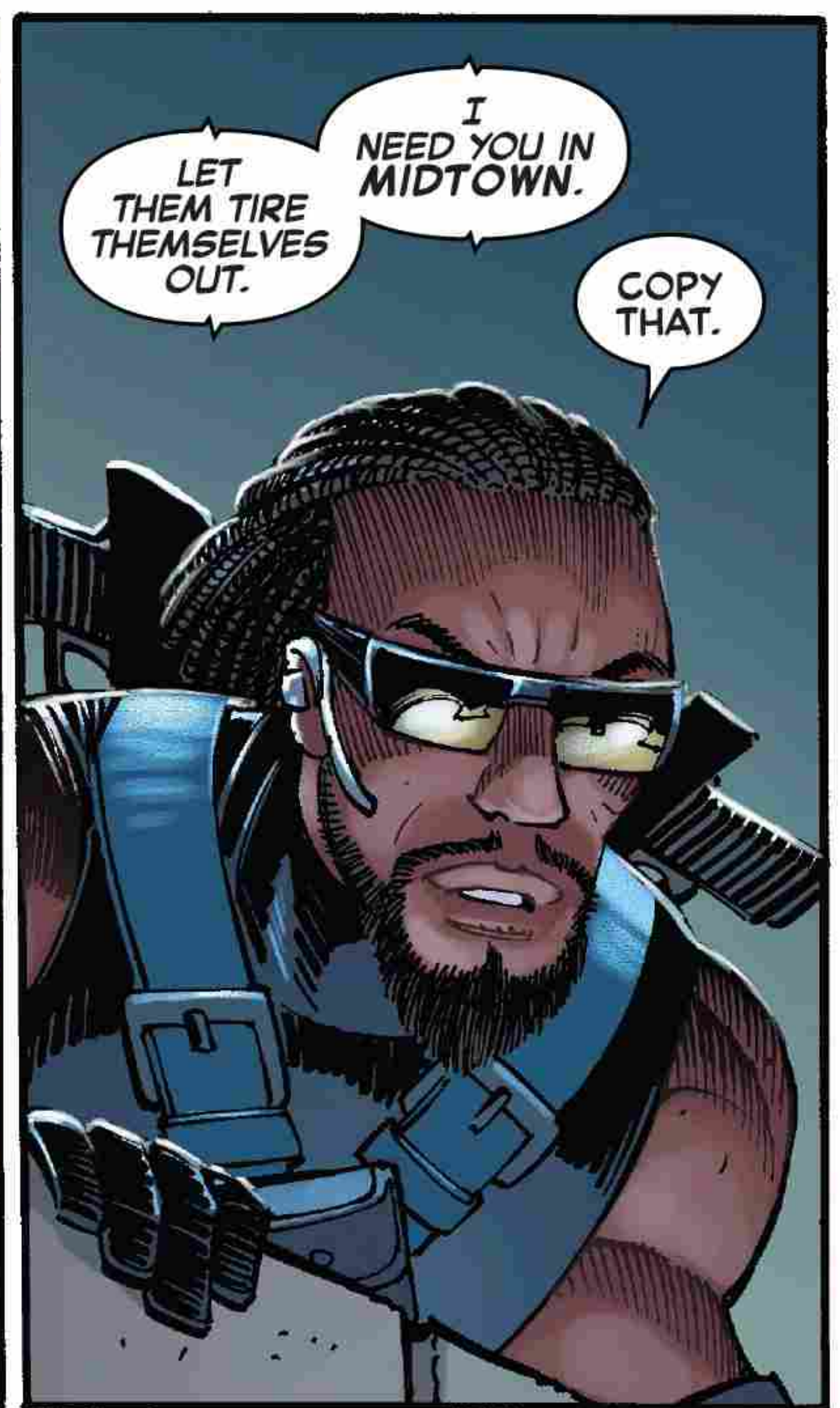
ONE
UNIFIED
FRONT
COMING
UP!

ATTA-
BOY.



THEY'RE
LOST IN THE
SMOKE...

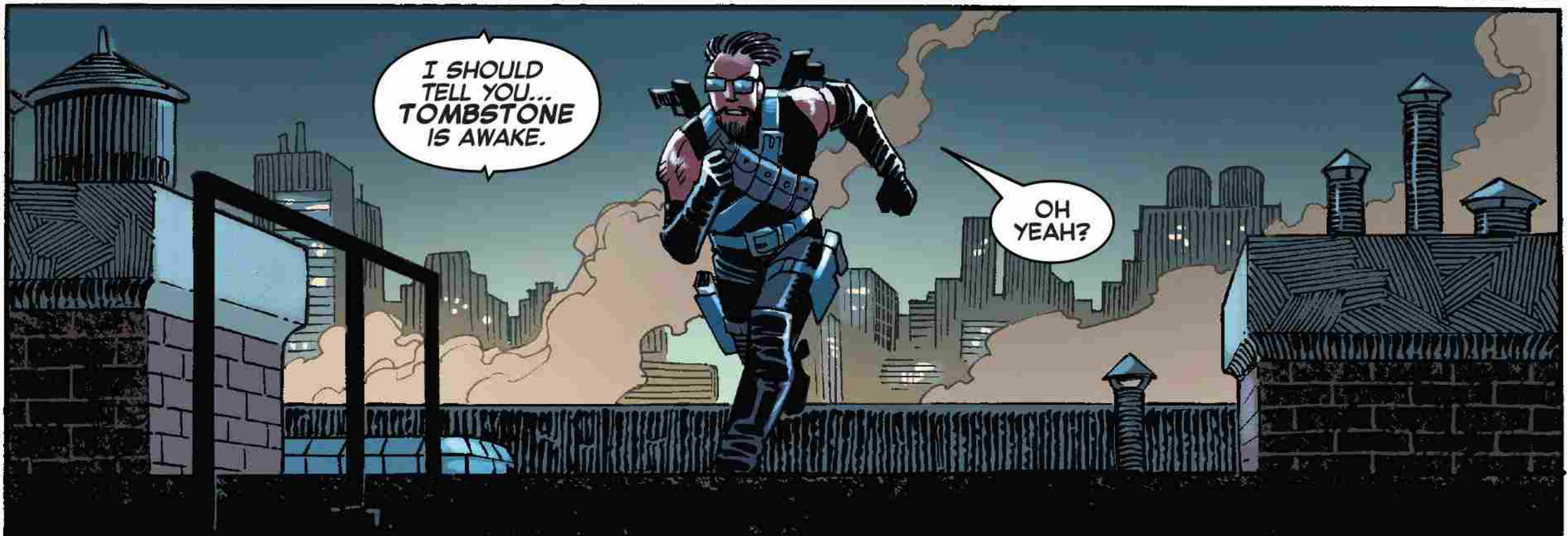
...WITH NO
IDEA HOW
TO FIND THE
FIRE.



LET
THEM TIRE
THEMSELVES
OUT.

I
NEED YOU IN
MIDTOWN.

COPY
THAT.



I SHOULD
TELL YOU...
TOMBSTONE
IS AWAKE.

OH
YEAH?



WHEN DO
I GET TO FIX
THAT?

AFTER
THE LAND
RUSH.

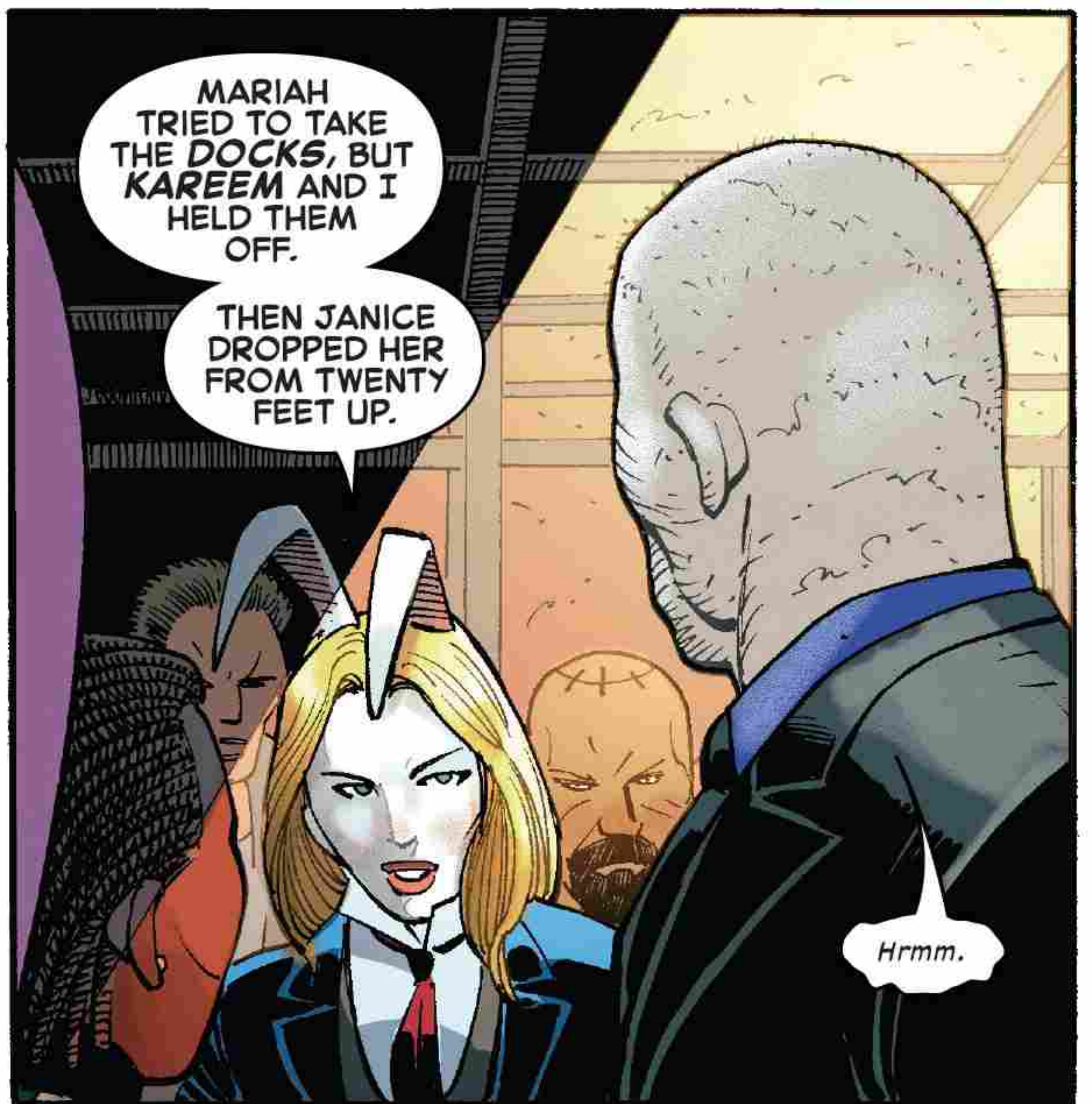


UNTIL
THEN...

WE TAKE
EVERYTHING
WE CAN.

ON MY
WAY.







NO?

WE'RE NOT RIDING THIS OUT. WE'RE TAKING IT ALL THE WAY.

I WANT HARLEM. ALL OF IT.



YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE.



I HAVE BEEN.
HAD TO BE.

AND I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MAKING PLAYS. PLAYS I HAVE TO FINISH.

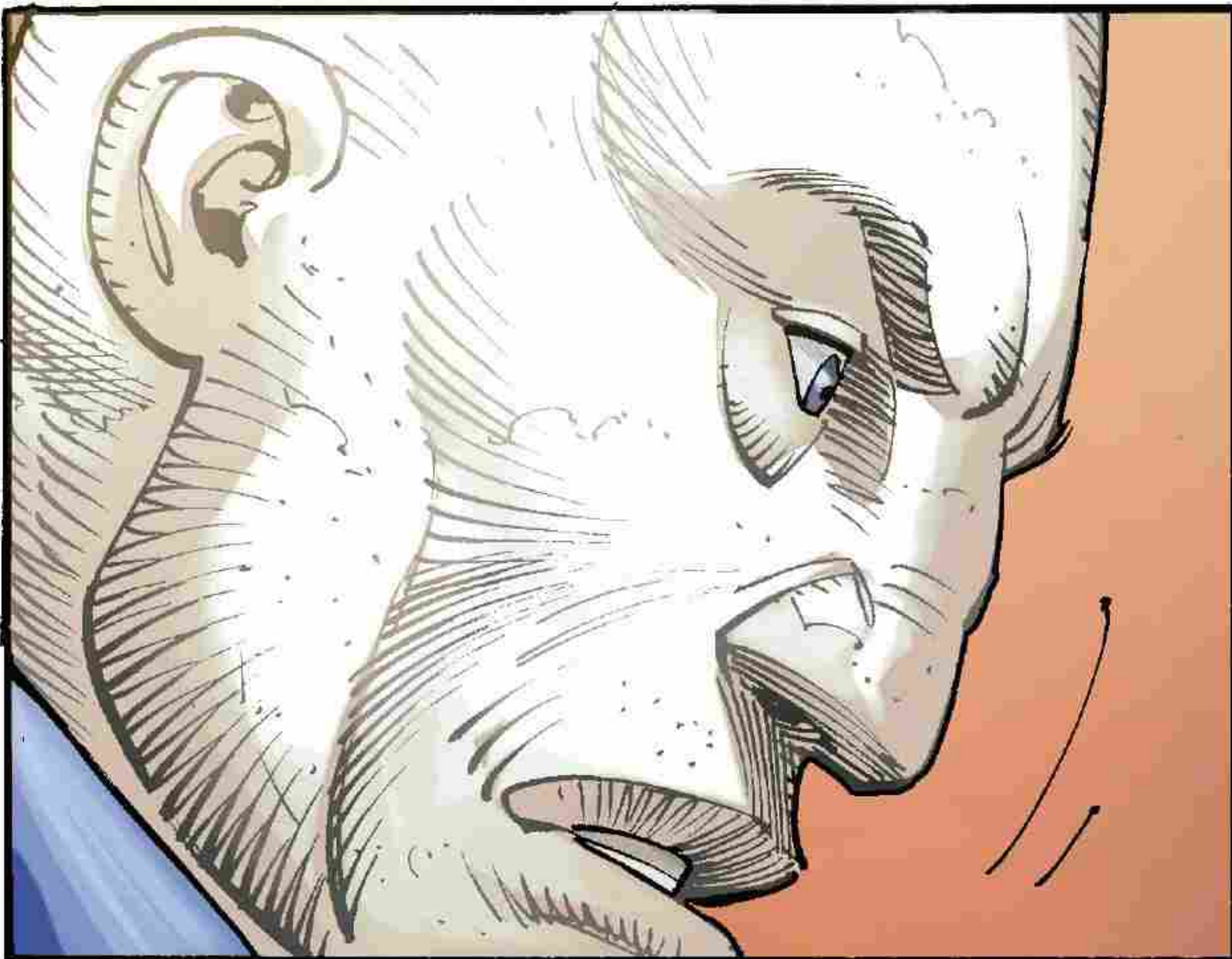


YOU WANT TO RUN MY TERRITORY?
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I DID TO GET WHERE I AM?

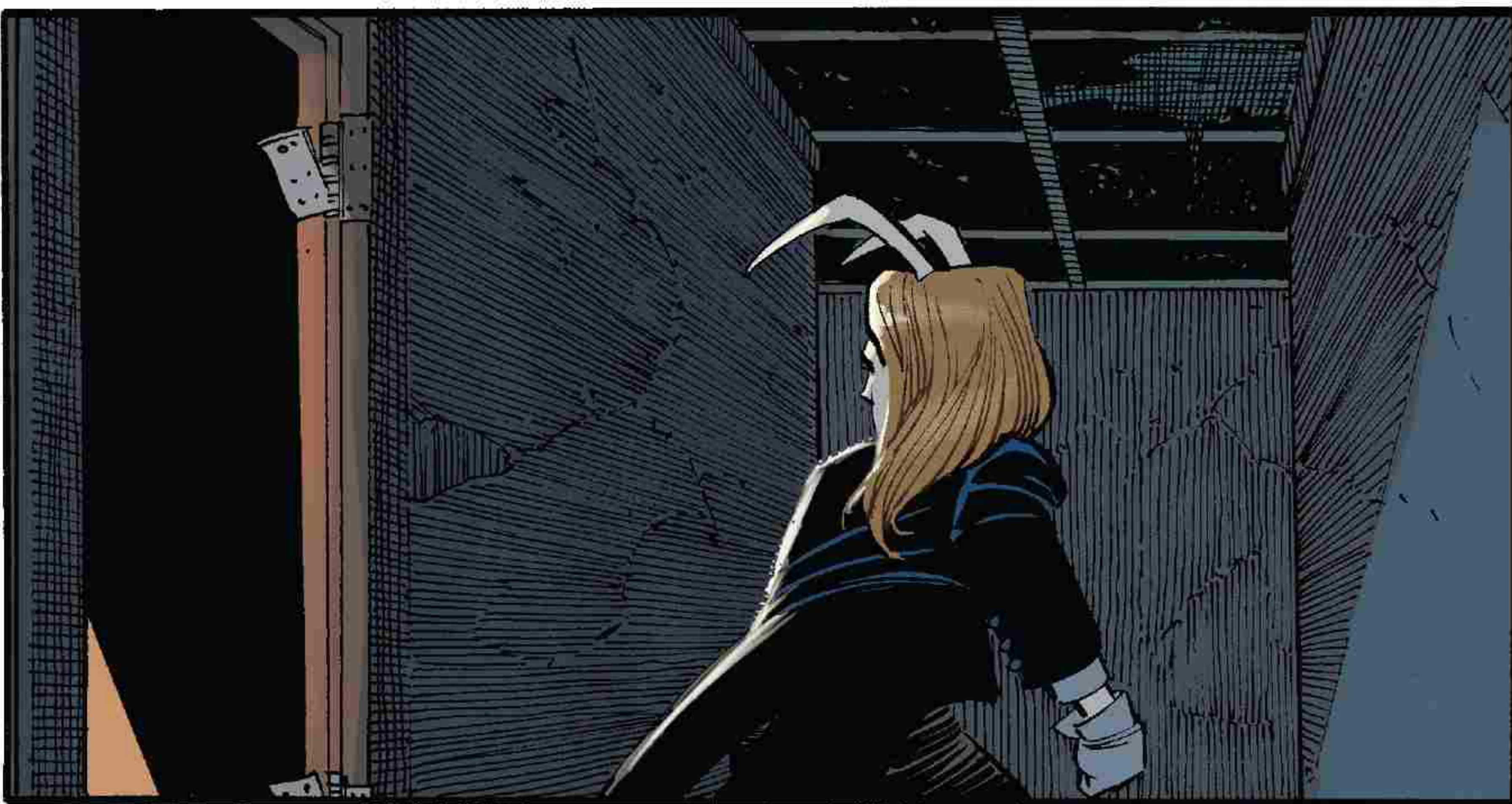


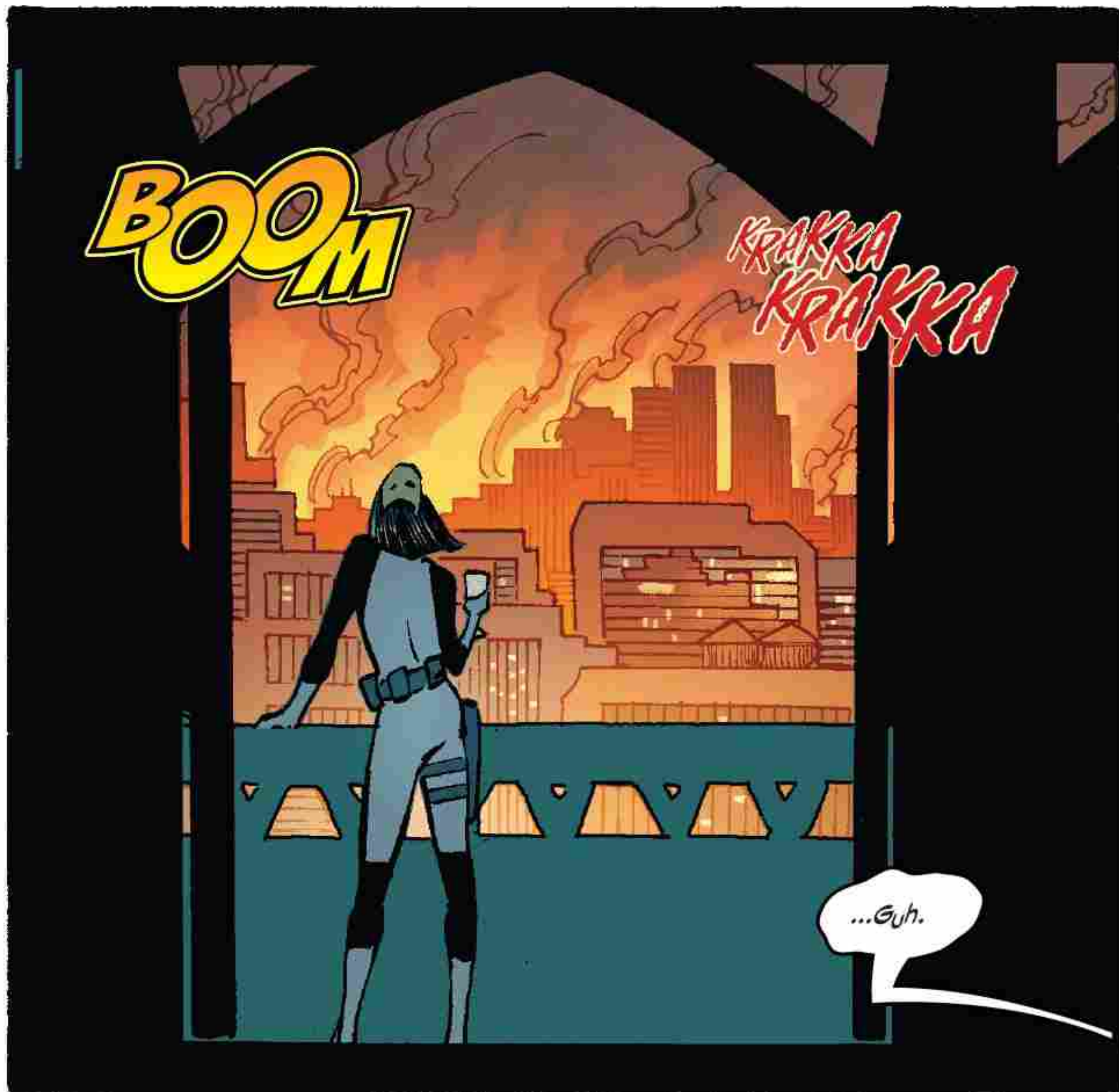
NO. YOU ALWAYS KEPT THAT FROM ME.

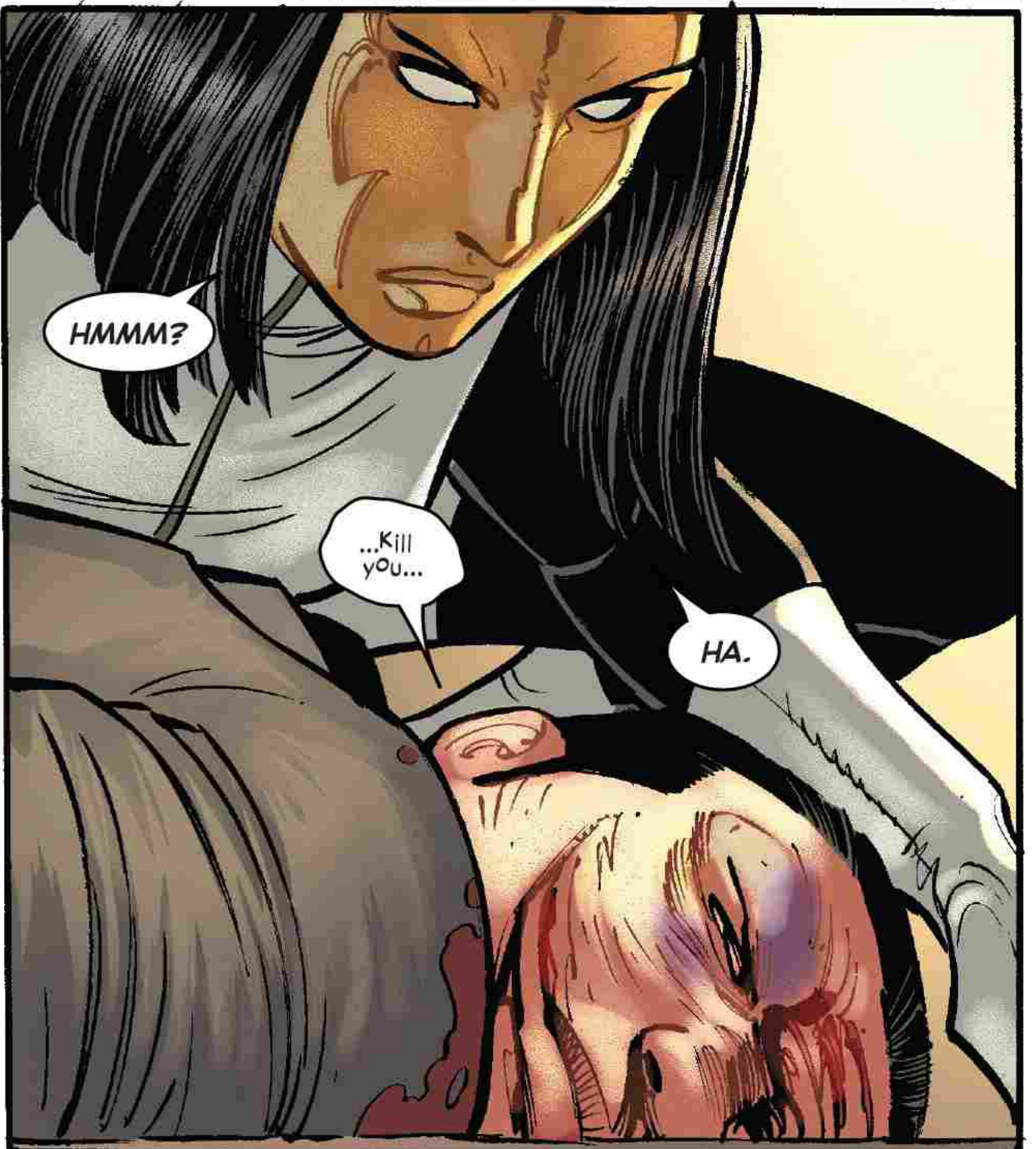
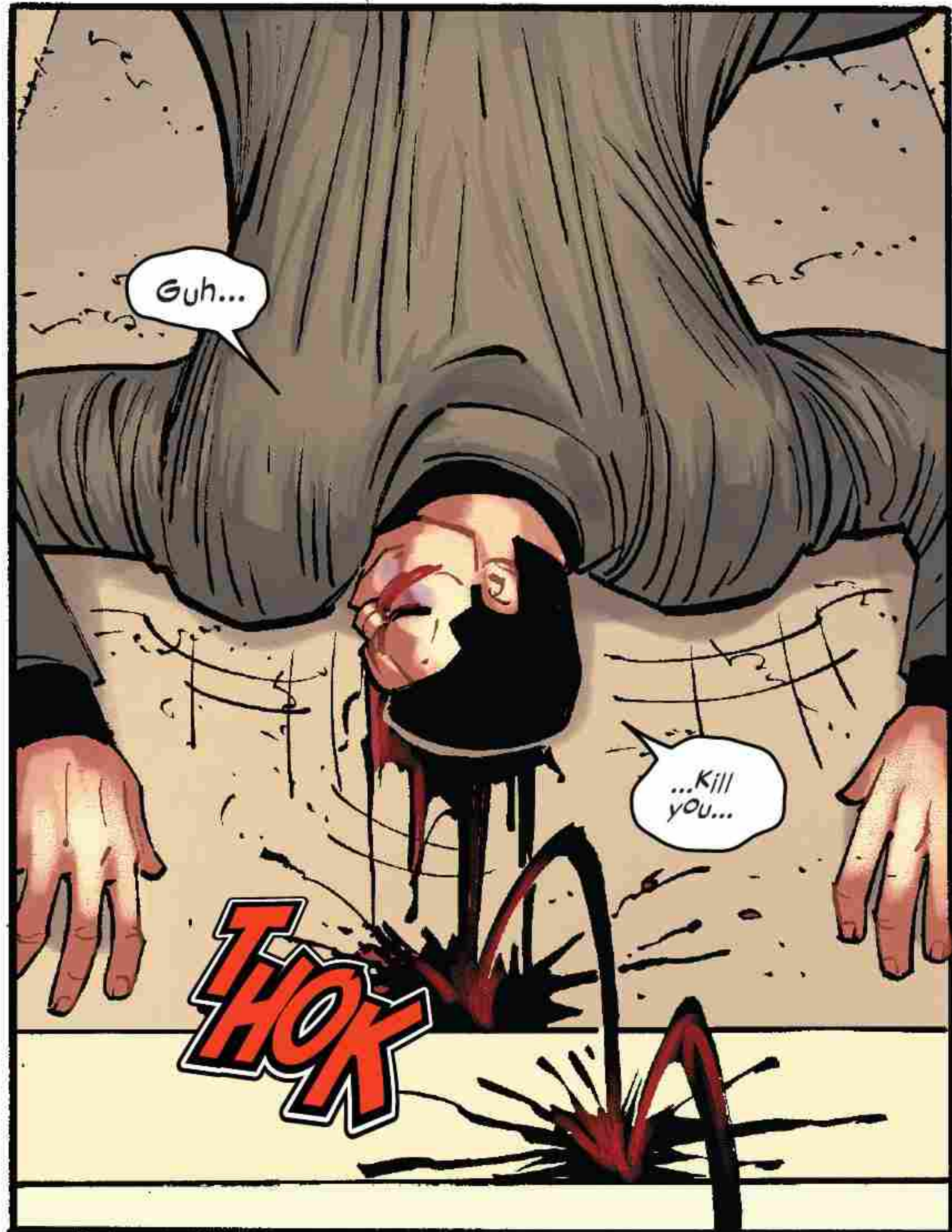
BUT WHATEVER IT IS, YOU HAVE THE STOMACH TO DO IT TO YOUR OWN DAUGHTER?

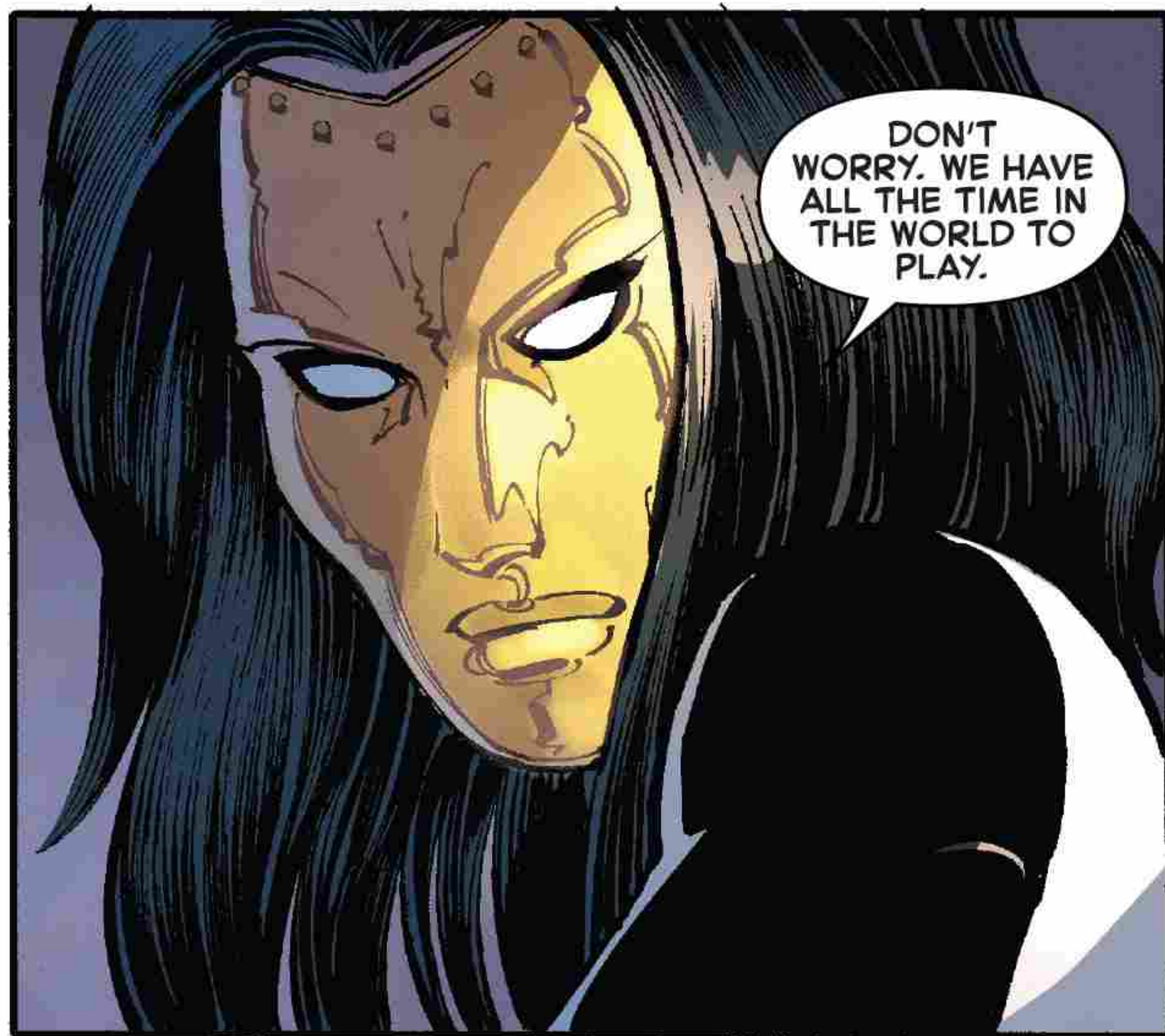
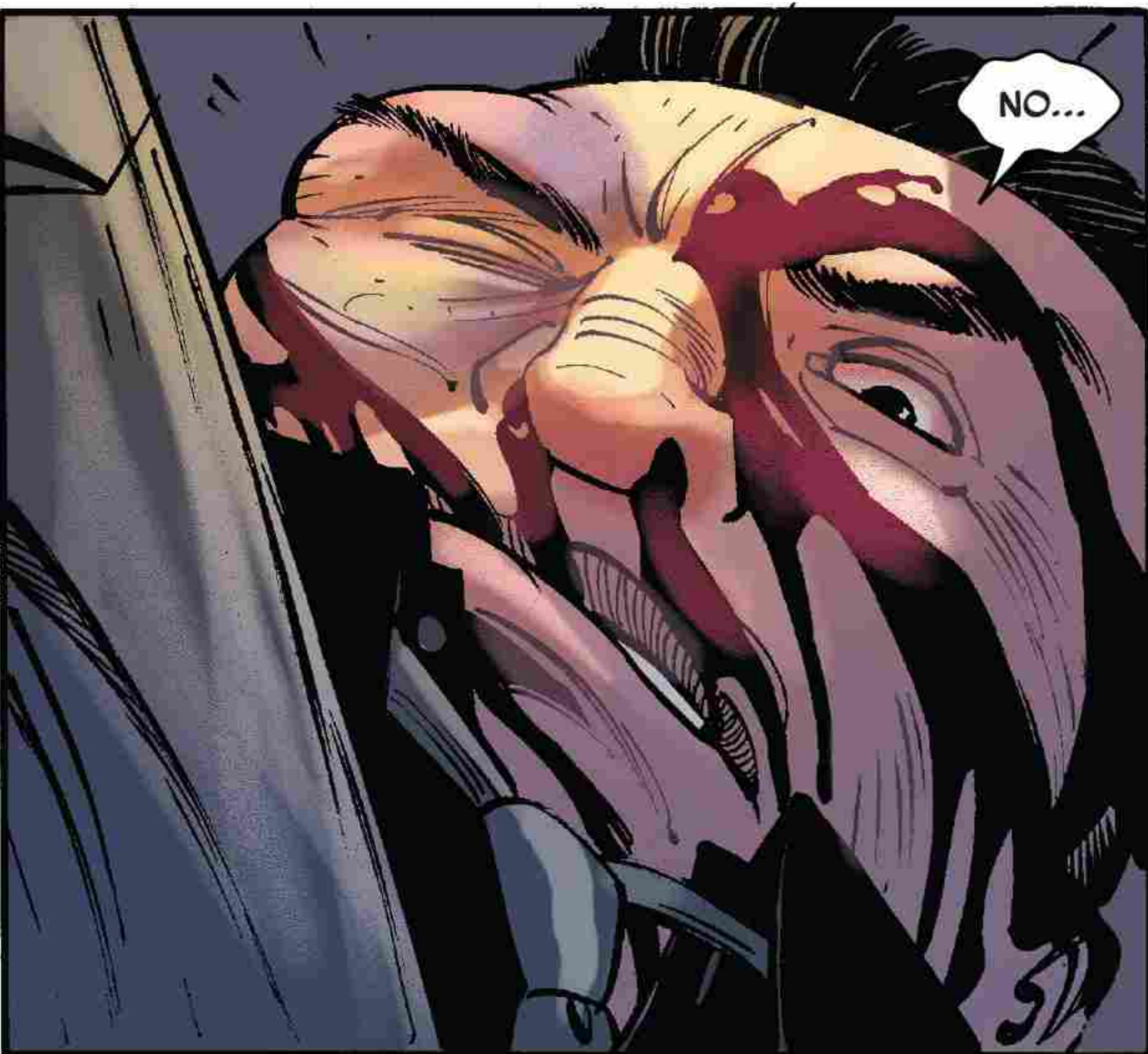
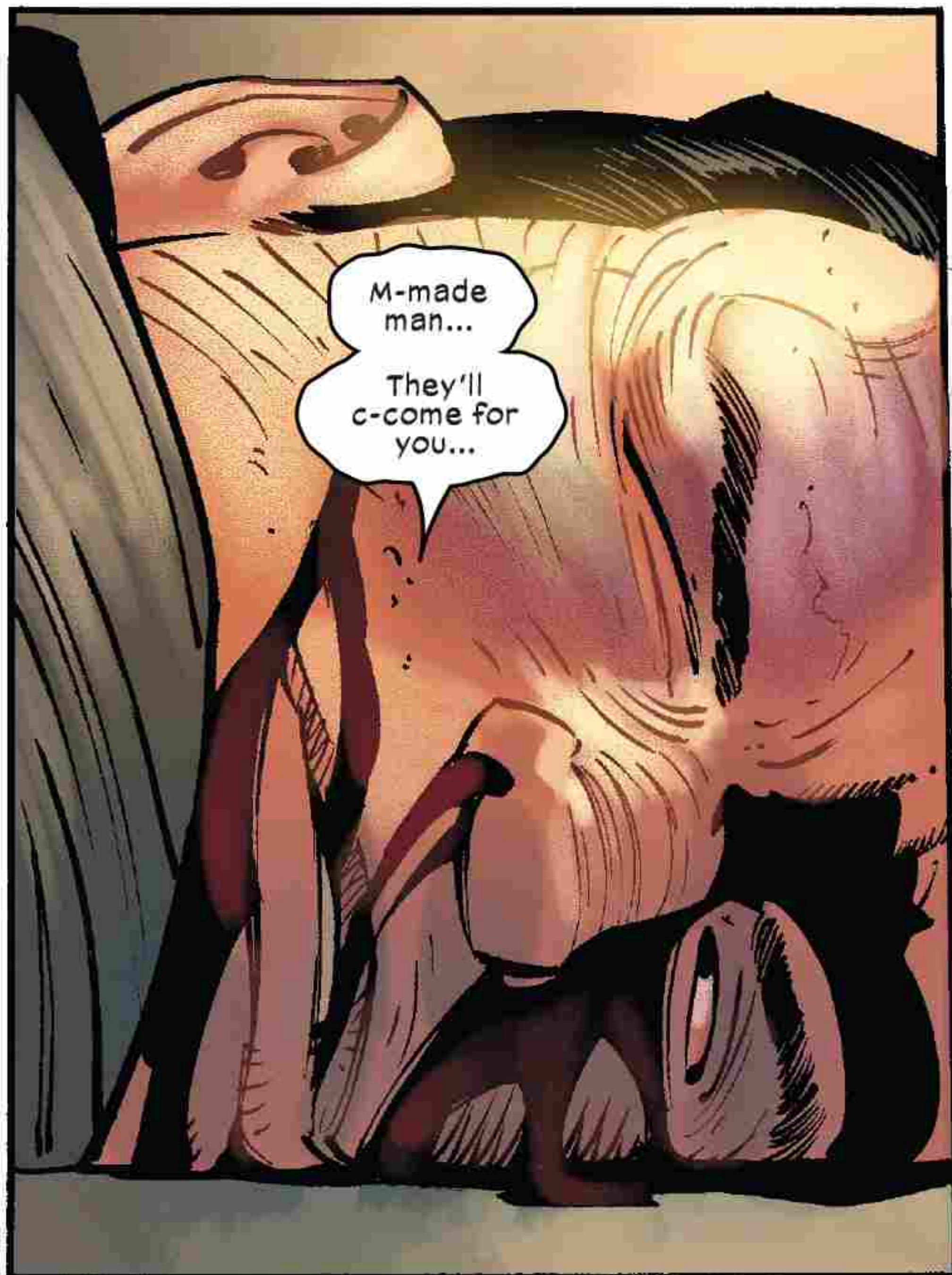
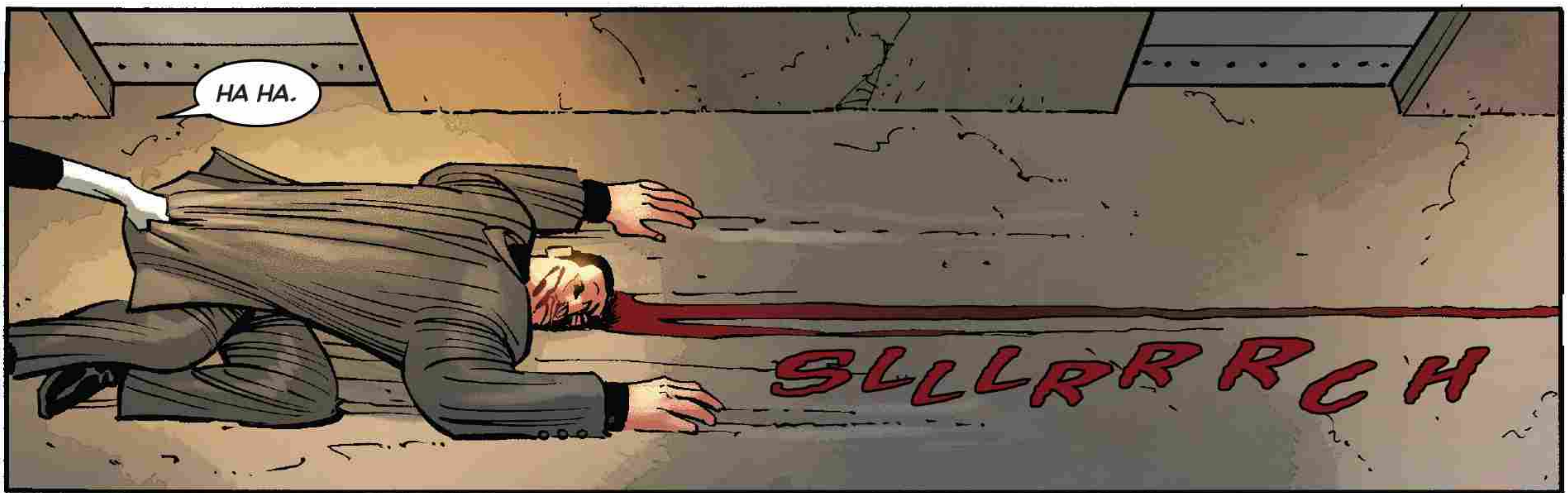


NO.











MURRAY HILL IS
NEUTRALIZED, LUKE.
WE'RE HEADING TO
MIDTOWN.

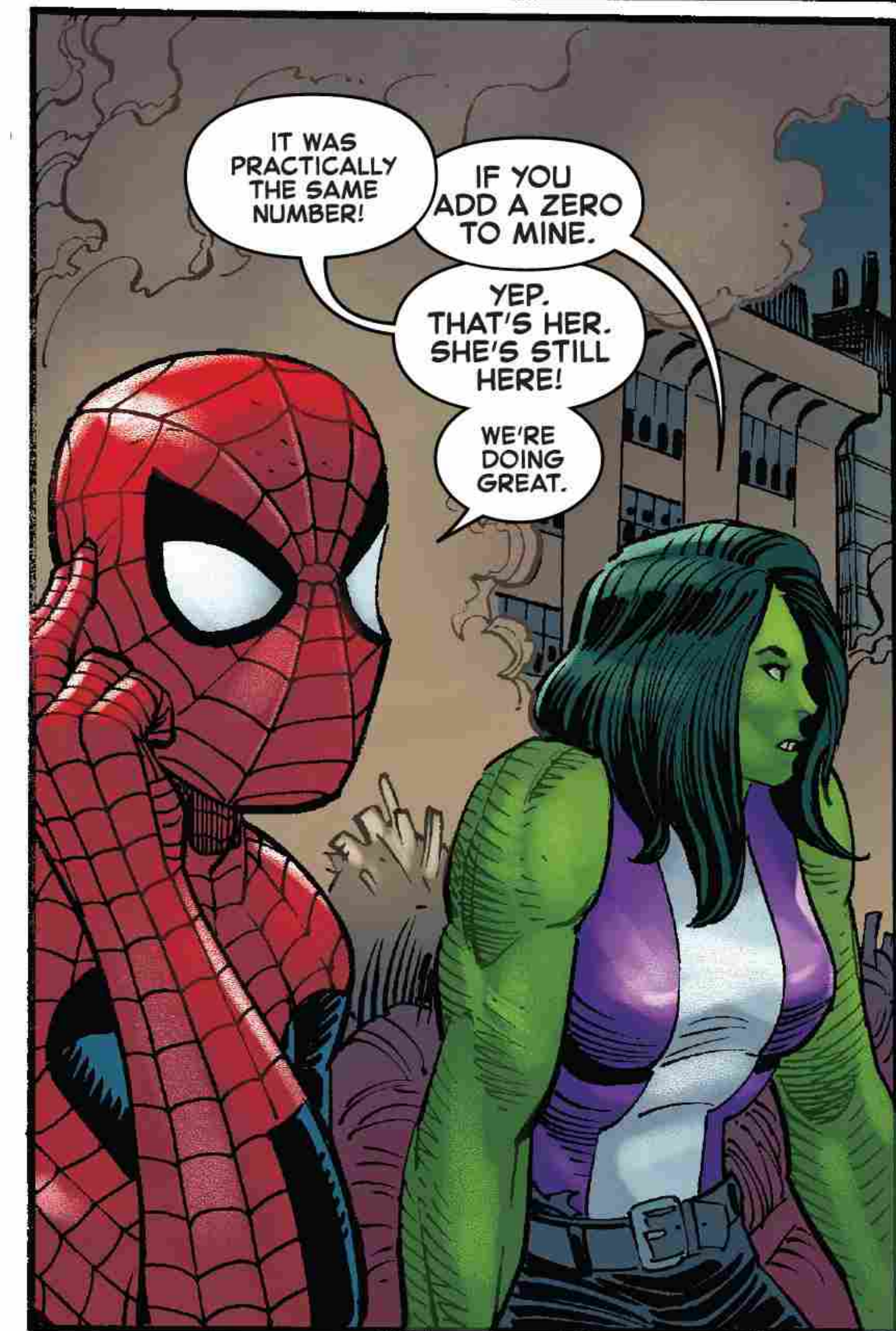
THAT
COULD GET
DICEY...

YOU GONNA
TELL HIM ABOUT
STANDING BEHIND
ME?

SHHHH!
I'M ON THE
PHONE!

THAT'S THE
BIGGEST MESS.
THAT'S WHERE
WE'RE GOING.

HOW ABOUT
HOW MANY
MONSTERS WE
EACH TOOK
DOWN?



IT WAS
PRACTICALLY
THE SAME
NUMBER!

IF YOU
ADD A ZERO
TO MINE.

YEP.
THAT'S HER.
SHE'S STILL
HERE!

WE'RE
DOING
GREAT.



SPIDER-
MAN?

NOT
NOW!

SPIDER-
MAN!



WHAT?!



HIM.

OH NO.

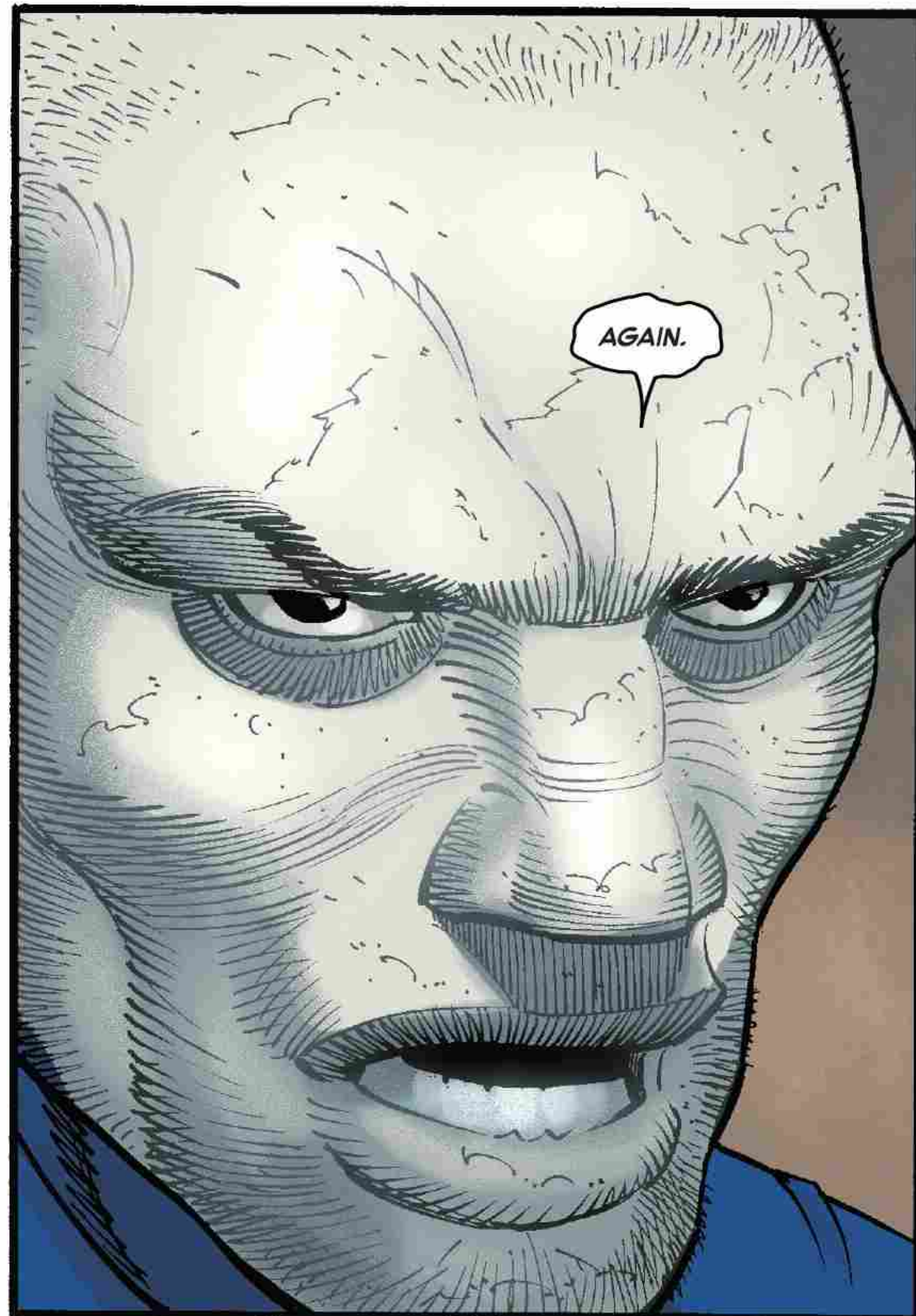
LUKE, I'LL
CALL YOU BACK.
WE'VE GOT
TROUBLE.

NO, YOU
DON'T.

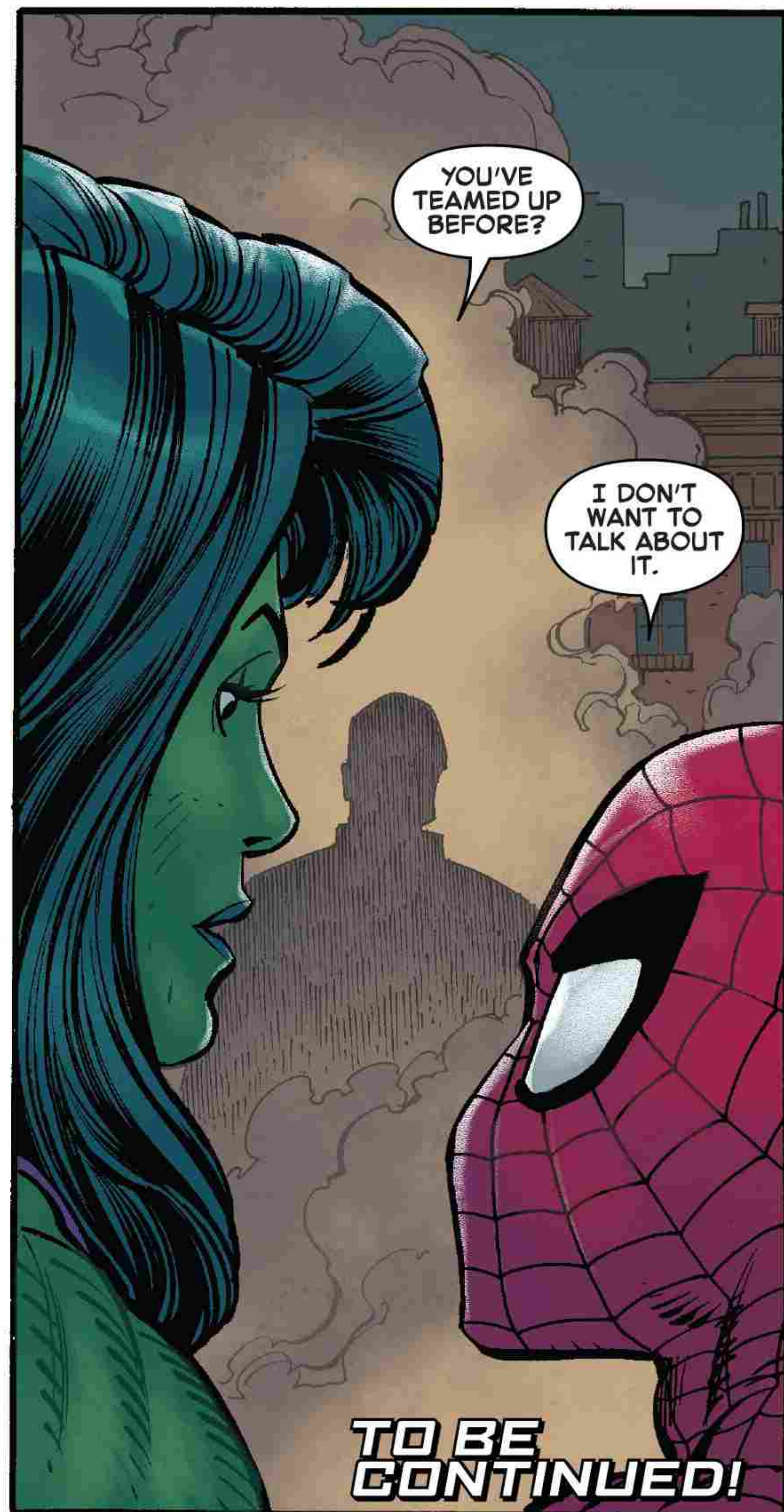


THEY DO.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE DOWN SOME **CRIME BOSSES** TOGETHER.



AGAIN.



YOU'VE TEAMED UP BEFORE?

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

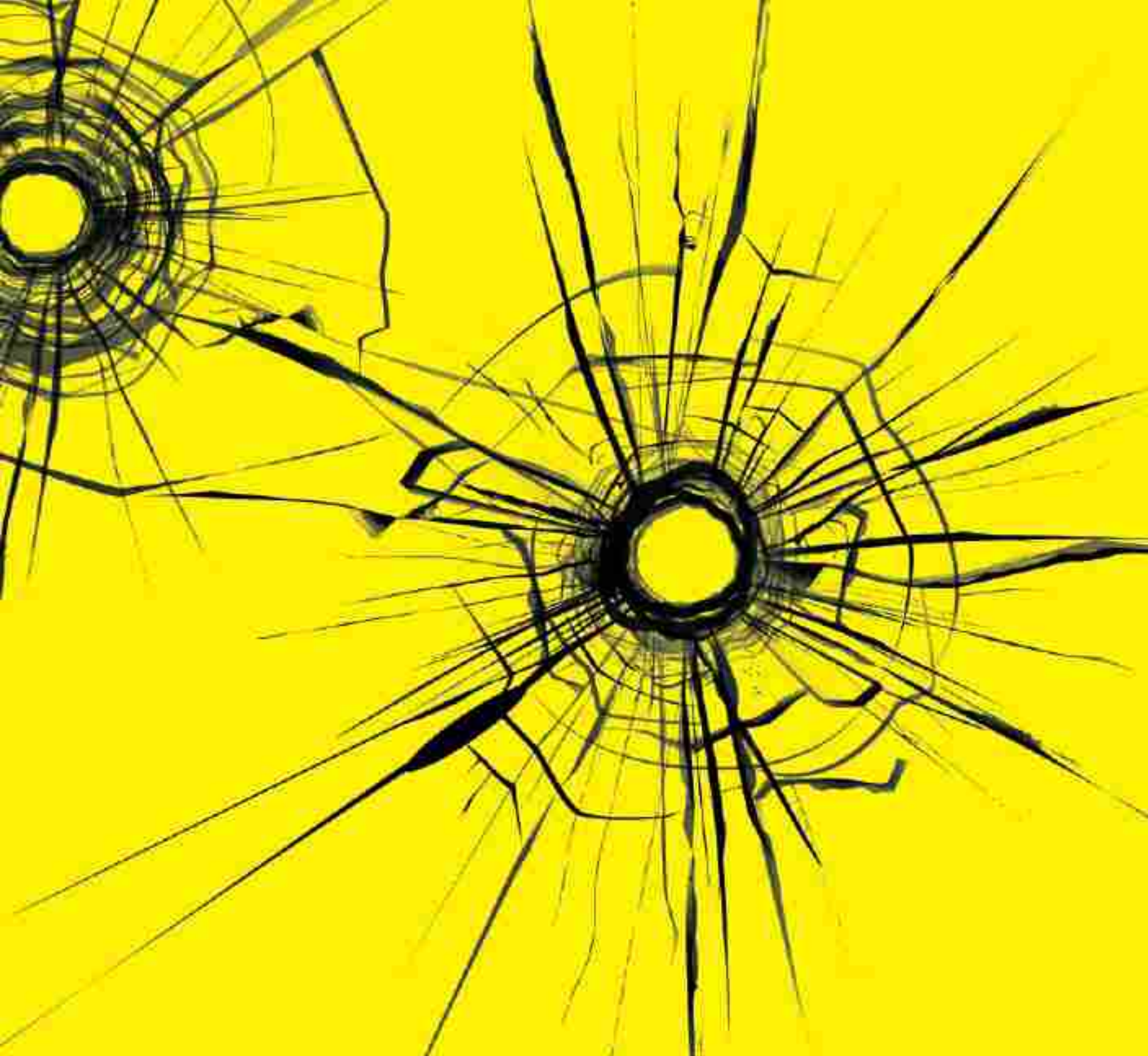
TO BE CONTINUED!

Keith Giffen

1952 - 2023



Marvel Comics pays tribute to writer and artist Keith Giffen. The co-creator of Rocket Raccoon, Giffen wrote the *Annihilation* event series and a sequel spinoff *Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord*, which would pave the way for a *Guardians of the Galaxy* revival. His first published artwork appeared in “The Sword in the Star” featured in *Marvel Preview*, which included Rocket’s first appearance. He moved into more mainstream titles with *Defenders*, penciling the infamous non-team during some of its most nontraditional storylines. Giffen had a strong body of work at DC Comics, with *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Justice League* and his irreverent creations Ambush Bug and Lobo. Our thoughts are with his fans, family, friends, and loved ones.



Attention, Web-Heads!

YOU ARE IN A WAR ZONE! With the extreme danger of this gang battlefield, even walking the streets is a perilous move. (The only safe thing to do is to get to your local comic-book shop to pick up the latest Gang War tie-in.) We've been building to this event since **ASM #895** (though you **COULD** say since **ASM #10!**), and it is finally here! **ZEB** and **JOHNNY** (and **SCOTT** and **MARCIO** and **JOE**) turned off their safeties and are pouring all of their intensity and insanity into **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** during "Gang War," and you aren't going to believe what you see and read here! But, as you may already know, this event isn't limited to **ASM #39-44**. If you want the full Gang War experience, we've included a checklist, but I wanted to talk about some of the awesome books that are tying in!

I hope you've all been reading **MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN** as it's great and the other book this event springs out of. **CODY ZIGLAR** and **FEDERICO VICENTINI** started laying threads to this story in **THEIR #1** too. So don't miss **MM:SM #13-16**, featuring one of the villainous stars of the **FIRST** Gang War back in **ASM #284-288, THE HOBGOBLIN!**

Meanwhile, last month kicked off **LUKE CAGE: GANG WAR** where **RODNEY BARNES** and **RAMÓN F. BACHS** show what the mayor is doing through Gang War. I'll give

you a hint...it's not just signing bills and cutting ribbons, and it involves **ANOTHER** classic Spider-Villain!

SPIDER-WOMAN also launched a new series last month preluding Gang War and will continue tying in, setting Jess against Diamondback and Hydra! **STEVE FOXE** and **CAROLA BORELLI** are going to give Spider-Woman one of the most emotionally intense stories in her history!

Then, while Matt Murdock is a little distracted by his new status quo in his brand-new book, we're doing **DAREDEVIL: GANG WAR** starring Elektra-Daredevil by **ERICA SCHULTZ** and **SERGIO DÁVILA** where DD goes up against the Heat and the Owl and gets in over her head. But if you know Elektra Natchios like I know Elektra Natchios, you start to feel bad for all her antagonists.

DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU: GANG WAR kicks its way into Gang War with **GREG PAK** and **CAIO MAJADO** as the quadiceps. Shang-Chi and his Five Weapons Society make a big stand in NYC facing off against Mr. Negative and Lady Yulan and her vampires. But whose side is Shang-Chi really on? Your answer to that question might change after **#1!!!**

Last, but **CERTAINLY** not least, **JACKPOT** gets her own one-shot to take part in Gang War!!! **CELESTE BRONFMAN** (who wrote the first Jackpot story in **ASM #31**) and **JOEY VAZQUEZ** (who drew **ASM: GANG WAR FIRST STRIKE**) are teaming up to bring you the next MJ adventure. She's going to have her hands full with Electro!!!

We still have some surprises up our sleeves, but that's where our infantry, cavalry, and artillery pieces stand on the Risk board that is Gang War! We hope you are all as excited about this epic story, so write in to **SPIDEYOFFICE@marvel.com** and let us know. If you mark your

letter "Okay to Print," you may see yourself in a future Letters Page like these fine people...

Dear Spider-Writers (can't forget the hyphen),

Lifelong fan, first time writing in. I loved getting to see Peter wearing his old black suit again, though the circumstances were less than ideal... I knew our good New Norman wasn't gonna last long, but I had such a good time reading **GOLD GOBLIN** that I had hoped it would last forever! I've enjoyed sympathizing with such a long-time villain, but I can't help but feel his sins in Peter have been used as a narrative way to further distance him from ever getting back with Mary Jane. I guess I'm trying to ask if there is any hope for the fans who have strong feelings against the events of "One More Day"? I respect the work that you're doing, but as an avid lurker in Spidey subreddits and Twitter threads, the pushback against it seems sizable. I know fan service and wish fulfillment aren't your job, it's writing a good Spider-Man story, but I think a good Spider-Man story is at least partially defined by him not getting constantly dogpiled on by life. I know "Parker Luck" is a doozy, but everything concerning Paul and MJ in the recent run seems like a bridge too far, especially considering time shenanigans were involved and pivotal to it happening in the first place. It'd be a great new chapter in the Spidey-Saga if we saw Pete get his life more in order and actually move forward. Is that something that's in the cards for our favorite hero? Final and serious question: Do you find the Paul slander on Twitter funny, or is it just a tired gag for you guys?

All Peace and Love,
Declan

P.S.: Should have called it Paul "libel." Almost forgot my lesson from JJJ!

Thanks for writing in, Declan! Glad **ASM #32-35** worked so well for you. I loved that arc

and am so proud. Our intention for it had to do with our Peter/Norman arc and MJ and Paul were logical characters to draw into it once the implications of the sins going into Peter played out. As for "One More Day," we have mostly moved on, and I wouldn't hold my breath for an undo any time soon, but I'll never say never. As for Paul slander/libel, I'm fine with it, I guess? The willful misreading of Paul's dialogue describing his situation makes me laugh a bit, but as we tell more of Paul's story, we'll see if people change their minds at all.

Hey, Web-Heads,

Wow! Sinful Spider-Man was such an amazing story arc--I'm really sad to see it end. I wanted to see an evil Spider-Man as we head into "Gang War." Punisher would have been impressed, haha. Mary Jane was well written and acted just like I knew she would. Whether Peter is evil or not, she still cares about him and will try to protect him. And her new Jackpot powers were really cool to see. I look forward to more stories with her soon. But what had to be my favorite part that Wells wrote was that last page, that single "heh" goblin laugh by Norman and the hand over his mouth and look of horror were brilliantly done. I really hope to see a well-written "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" conflict with Norman as we've really gotten to know his good side and his potential when he's not a villain. Can't wait to read more ASM soon, but I might not be able to as I'm currently in the middle of enlisting in the U.S. Army and might be a little busy at basic training to read "Gang War." But I can't wait to catch up after for more amazing stories.

Keep Swinging,
Matt Roberts

First, Matt, thank you for deciding to serve. We have great respect for our service men and women. Really glad you liked the

arc. We were sad to see it end as well as it was super fun. Zeb and Pat really nailed that last scene, right? But all things must come to an end. As you saw above, we are FAR from over with the story of Mary Jane Watson!

Dear Spidey-Office,

Can Patrick Gleason draw Spider-Man forever?

Christian Carlos

Trying to get Pat back ASAP as we totally share your feelings, Christian!

Hey, Spidey-Team,

I've really enjoyed this run from Zeb & crew, but this latest story has just elevated things to the next level! Spidey is such a good-natured character, it's so fun to see him go dark. Zeb's depiction of a possessed Peter is spot-on--I can hear the Goblin's voice in my head with every line he delivers. I was a little skeptical of a cleansed Norman, but this partnership has turned into something I never knew I needed. I love how Norman can forecast Peter's moves, thinking back to how his mind used to operate--and that line to Paul about taking the tunnel over the bridge was both amazing and devastating. I can't leave here

without also saying what a perfect match Patrick Gleason was for this arc. His big, fluid action is always great, but he really sold the smaller stuff too like Peter's Goblin-infused poses and facial expressions.

Like I said, this is a high-water mark for me. I can't wait to see what comes next. How are we going to top this?! Keep up the good work, Spidey-Team!

Best,
Drew
Rowley, MA

Thanks for writing in, Drew! We're hoping Gang War tops it, but we also had a BIG call this week planning ASM #50-54 that has us all TOTALLY PSYCHED! We're always trying to top every past Spidey story, so just watch out for 2024 Spider-Stories!!!

Okay, have to get back into my bunker and open up a can of beans! See you in all the tie-ins and then back here in two weeks!!!

Keep Thwippin'!
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Astoria, NY

GANG WAR



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THE GANG WAR

CONTINUES!

NEXT:

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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FOLLOW THE WAR

NOVEMBER 2023

- ☒ ~~Amazing Spider-Man: Gang War First Strike #1~~
- ☒ ~~Luke Cage: Gang War #1~~
- ☒ ~~Spider-Woman #1~~

DECEMBER 2023

- ☒ ~~Amazing Spider-Man #39~~
- ☐ Daredevil: Gang War #1
- ☐ Luke Cage: Gang War #2
- ☐ Miles Morales: Spider-Man #13
- ☐ Amazing Spider-Man #40
- ☐ Deadly Hands of Kung Fu: Gang War #1
- ☐ Miles Morales: Spider-Man #14
- ☐ Spider-Woman #2

JANUARY 2024

- ☐ Amazing Spider-Man #41
- ☐ Daredevil: Gang War #2
- ☐ Luke Cage: Gang War #3
- ☐ Miles Morales: Spider-Man #15
- ☐ Amazing Spider-Man #42
- ☐ Spider-Woman #3
- ☐ Deadly Hands of Kung Fu: Gang War #2
- ☐ Jackpot #1

FEBRUARY 2024

- ☐ Daredevil: Gang War #3
- ☐ Amazing Spider-Man #43
- ☐ Deadly Hands of Kung Fu: Gang War #3
- ☐ Miles Morales: Spider-Man #16
- ☐ Luke Cage: Gang War #4
- ☐ Spider-Woman #4
- ☐ Amazing Spider-Man #44

MARCH 2024

- ☐ Daredevil: Gang War #4